Liquid Passion
http://www.liquideros.com/
#liquidpassion@irc.irchighway.net

Toko Kawai's

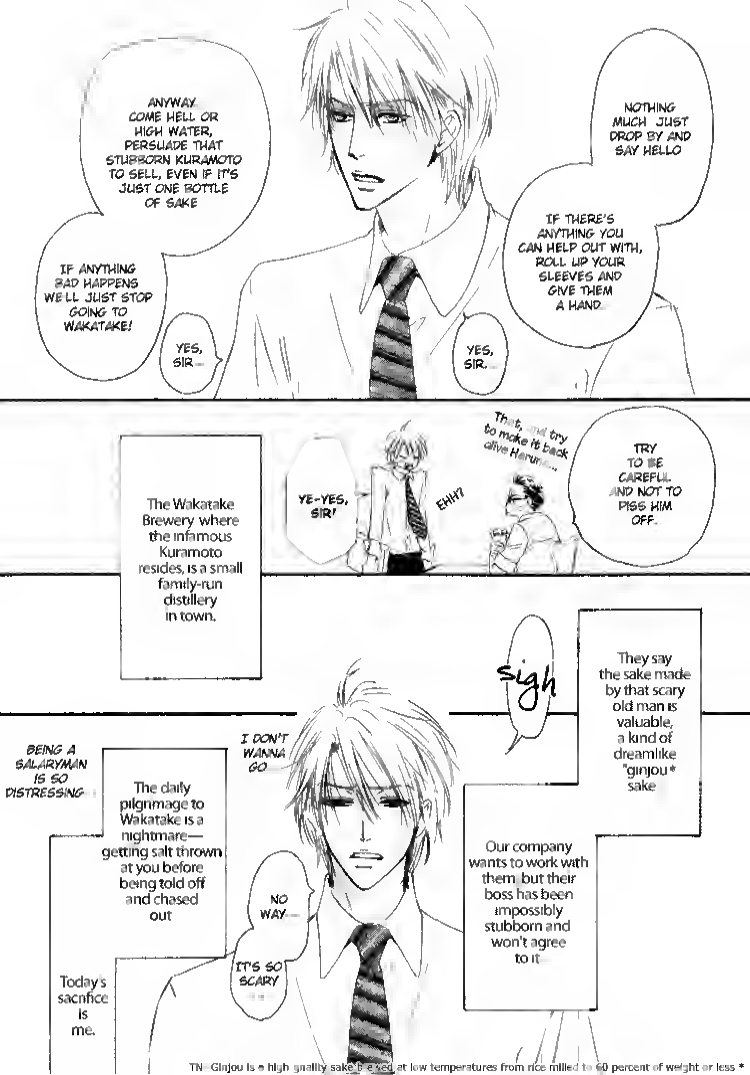
Apple-scented Rain of Petals

Coordinator: Ashcat
Scanner: Phantasm
Translator: Cass
J to E Translator: Kaoru
Photographer: Abraxalis
Editor: Purple_Cassiopeia
Q.C: Ashcat &
Grandpa Kapanda

雪花の林檎の香り

LOKD KAWA

川唯東子


ANYWAY, COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, PERSUADE THAT STUBBORN KURAMOTO TO SELL, EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE BOTTLE OF SAKE
IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS WE'LL JUST STOP GOING TO WAKATAKE!
YES, SIR...
YES, SIR...
NOTHING MUCH JUST DROP BY AND SAY HELLO
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN HELP OUT WITH, ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GIVE THEM A HAND...
The Wakatake Brewery where the infamous Kuramoto resides, is a small family-run distillery in town.
YE-YES, SIR!
EHH?
That, I'll try to make it back alive Haruno...
TRY TO BE CAREFUL AND NOT TO PISS HIM OFF...
sigh
They say the sake made by that scary old man is valuable, a kind of dreamlike "ginjou" sake
Our company wants to work with them, but their boss has been impossibly stubborn and won't agree to it...
BEING A SALARYMAN IS SO DISTRESSING...
The daily pilgrimage to Wakatake is a nightmare—getting salt thrown at you before being told off and chased out
Today's sacrifice is me.
I DON'T WANNA GO...
NO WAY...
IT'S SO SCARY...

TN: Ginjou is a high quality sake brewed at low temperatures from rice milled to 60 percent of weight or less.

At the residence of the client from hell, the man standing there, is this a dream...?!
Can't we just get sake from some other brewery? Why won't they sell to us?
I can't drink sake to begin with, so I don't really understand why they're all so obsessed about it.
—I wonder who that is? Someone working at the brewery?
I've never seen him before
He looks pretty cool...
雫 花びら 林檎の香り
前編
TOKO KAWAI
川唯東子

He's totally my type ♡
UHM I...
YEAH?
Uwaah! Damn it, what should I do ?!
Eh?
What?
UHM YES?
Is it just me, or does he look pissed off...
stare
UHM... I'M FROM W&F. MY NAME IS...
EXCUSE ME DO YOU WORK HERE?
Eh?!
AH, YES?
HEY, HARUNA!
THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE, YOU CAN TALK TO THEM
NO
I'M JUST TEMPORARY HELP

tch
Ehh?? What the?!
tongue out
HEY! A CUSTOMER!
HARUNA! YOU IN THERE?
UHM... I...
I'M FROM WGF. MY NAME IS HARUNA...?
Oh right, I didn't give my name earlier on...
WHAT?
UHMM, WGF IS THE COMPANY THAT COMES TO MAKE GRANDFATHER ANGRY EVERYDAY, ISN'T IT?
WELL, HELLO I'M NAKAGAWA HARUNA, THE CHIEF BREWER.
WOW YOUR LAST NAME IS THE SAME AS MY FIRST NAME
SO YOU'RE HARUNA MUTSUKI-SAN FROM WGF
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT ACTUALLY...
YOU'RE QUITE BRAVE AREN'T YOU!
BY THE WAY, WHERE WOULD KURA-MOTO BE...?
TODAY ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT I'VE COME TO MAKE HIM MAD AGAIN
UHM...
SORRY ABOUT THAT

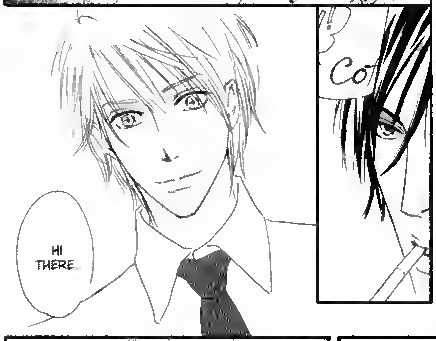
EHH? HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL?!
UM, MAY I ASK WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM—?
OH IT'S NOT A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR ANYTHING
HE JUST GOT DRUNK LAST NIGHT AND FELL, SO THERE'S A LITTLE FRACTURE IN HIS LEG...
A FRAC-TURE...
ACTUALLY HE DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO BE HOSPITALIZED. BUT IF HE COMES HOME RIGHT AWAY, HE'S NOT GOING TO STAY STILL, AND HE'S JUST GOING TO GO ON DRINKING AGAIN—
I'm fine!
It doesn't hurt a bit...!
You don't have to go this far!
SLAP
SO IT WAS BASICALLY A LONG-TERM "ENFORCED HOSPITAL-IZATION!
HE'LL BE BACK IN TWO OR THREE DAYS
SO, PLEASE COME BY AGAIN AROUND THEN
UM... MAY I ASK WHICH HOSPITAL HE'S AT?
I'D LIKE TO GO VISIT HIM.
IT'S THE GENERAL HOSPITAL FACING THE STATION...
BUT JII-CHAN IS IN A VERY BAD MOOD!
URK
UHM
ALRIGHT
I have a really bad feeling about this...

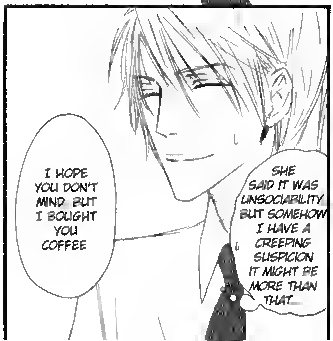
WELL, GOOD LUCK TO YOU THEN! DO YOU KNOW THE WAY? IT'S A LITTLE TRICKY.
WAIT A MOMENT, I'LL DRAW YOU A MAP.
I'M SORRY. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE.
No problem.
EXCUSE ME,
THE MAIN OUTSIDE... HE'S...?
HMM? OUTSIDE?
OH, THE GUY FROM BEFORE? HE'S MY OLDER BROTHER
UNSOCIABLE, ISN'T HE?
HAHA...
YOUR BROTHER IS AN ARTISAN AS WELL?
NOPE. NOT HIM. HE'S WORKING SOMEWHERE ELSE I THINK IT'S RELATED TO COMPUTERS
IT SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY FLEXIBLE JOB. UNTIL JII-CHAN GETS BETTER, HE'LL BE COMING HERE TO HELP OUT.
WE DO IN-STORE SALES AS WELL AS DELIVERIES, SO IF I'M TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING ALONE I WON'T BE ABLE TO MANAGE IT...
I wonder if he believes in love at first sight?

I'm the type who wants a relationship with a higher chance of it actually working out...
...I guess it can't be helped. He's most likely an ordinary, straight guy...
But then again 'cause I'm... well you know So the chances of it working out are extremely... well yeah
I for one am definitely a believer. The moment our eyes met, chills ran down my spine! I swear!
Even so, my heart...
isn't going to just stop there. So this is love, huh...
I might even volunteer to make the next visit to the brewery...
HMM... HE SEEMS LIKE THE REALLY TOUGH TYPE...
BUT HE IS MY TYPE I REALLY WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN...
WAKA-TAKE
I HEARD IT'S BECAUSE KURAMOTO OF WAKATAKE BREWERY IS GOING TO RETURN TODAY
HE LEFT IN A HURRY JUST NOW
I need a signature...
IS HE OUT?
OH... WHERE'S THE BOSS?

SO KURAMOTO IS OUT OF THE HOSPITAL NOW
NAKAGAWA-SAN COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS COMPUTER AS WELL?
IT'S BEEN ACTING UP LATELY
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ALLOWED TO GO NEXT TIME
KURAMOTO IS SO SCARY BUT I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE THAT GUY AGAIN
HMM... HAVE YOU INSTALLED ANY NEW SOFTWARE RECENTLY? FREEWARE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT ?
AH, I THINK SO! THE IMAGE PROCESSING SPEED NEEDED IMPROVEMENT
AH!
IT'S HIM...!
THAT PROFILE...
May I open it?
Um, it's this one
HEY, WHO IS THAT GUY?
THE ONE TALKING TO ONO-SAN!! THE ONE WORKING ON THE COMPUTER.
HM?
OH. THAT'S THE SYSTEMS ENGINEER WE CONTRACTED
I'd like to keep the software if it's possible.
Okay... I'll try
HE COMES IN PERIODICALLY TO WORK ON OUR SYSTEM'S MAINTENANCE
WHY?
NO REASON

Isn't this destiny?




I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BUT I BOUGHT YOU COFFEE.
SHE SAID IT WAS UNSOCIABILITY, BUT SOMEHOW I HAVE A CREEPING SUSPICION IT MIGHT BE MORE THAN THAT...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE OUR SYSTEMS ENGINEER
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M USUALLY WORKING OUTSIDE SO I HAVEN'T SEE YOU BEFORE
MAYBE...
THANKS
AW. COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT. I GOT IT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU, SO PLEASE, DRINK IT
NO, I JUST...
Coffee
OH, THANKS.
MY SUPERIOR JUST LEFT TO GIVE HIM OUR REGARDS
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT KURAMOTO WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL
clack
clack
clack
HE'S HARDER TO APPROACH THAN I EXPECTED
glance
I CAN'T EVEN STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION!
UMM...
I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS EXCITED FOR A LONG TIME!
HMM I GUESS IT WON'T HURT TO ASK
NOOO... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, HE'S REALLY GREAT!

Uwaa... It's that blatantly irritated face again
NAKAGAWA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
UM... I JUST THOUGHT YOU'RE A REALLY NICE GUY AND ALL
Somehow it seems like it's become a habit to be looked upon with this face
Luckily I'm a M*...
OR MAYBE YOU'RE MARRIED ALREADY?
*T/N: Masochist but in reference to personality type instead of sexual proclivity
SO, NAKAGAWA-SAN, WHAT TYPE...
HEY
EH? REALLY? YOU'RE A PRETTY COOL GUY AND ALL... I'M SURPRISED
...Neither, huh...? Well, for his type, I guess he's pretty hard to please
LUCKY!
NO
IT'S NEITHER

Whoa, he's so harsh.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO GOSSIP ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS LIKE THIS
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ALL THIS?
I...
I really want this guy.
But why?
I can't take my eyes away from him.
I WOULDN'T SAY IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
There are alarms going off all over telling me I should give it up.
If I could stop myself here..
BECAUSE I...

I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.
Then I guess
I wouldn't have been attracted to him from the start.
I'M SORRY.
BUT THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF JOKE...
I KNOW I SAID IT WITH UNUSUAL FORCE,
UHM.
Stand

THANKS FOR THE COFFEE
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN WHETHER YOU'RE IN LOVE OR NOT
YOU'D BETTER SET YOUR HOPES ON SOMEONE ELSE
Was the timing too good?
It's gone all cold... I got crushed, just like that...
Well, that's how it is, huh... I get it.
From what he just said, it's pretty clear he's not interested in a relationship.
But it sounded like gender is not the issue...

But my redeeming point is that I am resilient in the face of the impossible!
HI. I'M HARUNA FROM W&F
HI THERE, THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY
ARE YOU TAKING LEAVE FROM YOUR SYSTEMS ENGINEERING WORK TODAY?
YEAH
HEY, VISITOR.
INDIFFERENT AS USUAL...
AH... AND NOW HE'S OFF.
OH, IT'S UM...
OKAY.
RIGHT, THE ONE WITH THE SAME NAME AS ME. HARUNA-SAN!
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU EVERY DAY! WHERE'S KURAMOTO?
JII-CHAN IS IN THE STOREHOUSE OUT BACK WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO TAKE YOU THERE?
YES, THANKS.

YOU GUYS REALLY NEVER LEARN, DO YOU? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS PLANNING TO DO, COME HERE EVERY DAY?!
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU? I'M NOT SELLING A DROP TO YOU GUYS WHO KEEP POPPING UP OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THIS!
UM... PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT, KURAMOTO
WOULD YOU PLEASE AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT OUR PLANS...?
SCURRY
YOU'RE TRYING TO STEAL OUR SAKE WITH THAT SCRAP OF PAPER?
GET OUT OF HERE!
JII-CHAN YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO MAD...
THEY SEND PEOPLE FROM THEIR COMPANY OVER EVERY DAY I THINK IT'S ALRIGHT IF WE GIVE THEM SOME...
YOU SHUT UP!!!!
UWAA
!
UM, KURAMOTO!
I'M JUST HERE TO TALK...
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT
JUST GET OUT OF HERE AND GO BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM!

I'M TELLING YOU TO SCRAM! WHAT PART DID YOU NOT UNDERSTAND?!!
freeze
KURAMOTO! COULD YOU PLEASE JUST LISTEN?
CRASH
UWAH!
I think I saw something like a giant ladle com... flying in my direction...
That was close!
HAA...

Here are the documents from last time.
WHAT'S UP, HARUNA? WHY ARE YOU SO EXHAUSTED?
NOT GOING TO WAKATAKE'S TODAY?
depressed
NOPE...
I NEVER WANT TO GO AGAIN
BUT HAVEN'T YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING TO GO LATELY?
Hahm.
NO ONE WANTS TO,
I KNOW BUT... EVERY TIME I GO THERE I GET WEIRD STUFF THROWN AT ME
swish
Uwaaaa!!
I HEARD YOU GOT CRUTCHES THROWN AT YOU YESTERDAY?!
swish
KYAA Jii-chan!!
swish
Get outta here already!
THAT SURE SOUNDS DANGEROUS
Hahaha...
Gyaaaa!!
THROW
HAHA
OUCH!!
HMM... LIKE WHAT, EXACTLY?
LAST TIME IT WAS A WOODEN LADLE? OR WAS IT A WOODEN BUCKET?
Jii-chan! Please stop it!!
turn
Hi there.
Nn
Hi there...
THIS is what's really disturbing him
Hahaha! Customers
Wave
AND THAT GUY IS STILL AS COLD AS EVER...
IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE
IT'S NOT FUNNY
HE'S SO STUBBORN, IT'S REALLY SHOCKING

YOU ALRIGHT THERE?
SHOULD I GO TODAY INSTEAD?
HMM
Well it was pointless from the very start..
YEAH THANKS, BUT ACTUALLY I THINK I'LL GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT.
WELL THEN, I GUESS I BETTER GET GOING!
At least.. I don't want to keep getting the cold shoulder
THAT'S IT.. JUST TAKE ONE MORE SHOT AT IT!
If you really do manage to bring down Wak-toke, you'll become a legend.
Even if he looks irritated, I just want to look him straight in the eye
GOOD AFTER-NOON!
I'M HARUNA FROM W5F
If he doesn't look at me today..
Well if that happens, then I guess I'll give up completely..

Hi
sigh
ANYTHING I CAN HELP OUT WITH?
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO ANYTHING AT ALL
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR KURAMOTO HE'S IN THE BREWING ROOM.
ALRIGHT
THANKS, I'LL GO MEET HIM THERE THEN
Ah well as expected, it isn't working out...
Even when he's talking, he doesn't bother to turn around and look at me...
The last memory I'll have of him is of his retreating figure.
Sigh...
Well at the very least, I have to do my job well
GOOD AFTER-NOON,
I'M HARUNA FROM W&F
Mmm, it tastes great
If we leave it for 2 to 3 more years, it'll be even better
Ehh? Won't it go bitter?
AH MU-CHAN* GOOD AFTER-NOON!
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE TODAY, AREN'T YOU?

* TN: Nickname that implies a close relationship.

GOOD AFTERNOON KURAMOTO-SAN.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH TODAY?
WE WERE JUST SEEING HOW THE SAKE FLAVOR HAS AGED
AGED...?
THIS ISN'T THE SAKE WE BREW TO PUT OUT ON THE MARKET. IT'S ONLY FOR OUR MAJOR CUSTOMERS
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME?
AH, I CAN'T...
I AM ON THE JOB RIGHT NOW
JUST A SIP WON'T HURT, RIGHT? IT'S REALLY GOOD♥!
UM, BUT I...
RAGE
RAGE
HEY, KID...
MY SAKE ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU, EH?
Even though my granddaughter took the effort to offer it to you...
NO. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
UM... IT'S BECAUSE I'M ON THE JOB...
SIP
YOU'RE NOT DRINKING SAKE FROM OUR BREWERY.
YET YOU DARE COME HERE EVERY DAY AS YOU PLEASE.
UHM...
THAT I CAN'T TAKE ALCOHOL.
I... I CAN'T JUST TELL THEM LIKE THIS...
STARE

SPLASH
UWAH!!
I SAID I'M NOT SELLING MY SAKE TO YOU!!
JII-CHAN THE MASTER OF SAKAMOTOYA IS ON THE PHONE.
SNAP
AHH, Haruna, that's...
YOU PUNK...
IS IT BAD ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SPIT IT OUT..
UWAA I DRANK SOME!!
UWA.. WHAT IS THIS? SAKE?!
blegh
blegh
What a waste...
What the? The vintage brew?
HEY WHAT THE HELL?
WHY EVEN ME...
EVEN ME?!
GYAA?!
What is it this time??
SPLOOOSH
AND DON'T COME BACK!!!
GET LOST!!

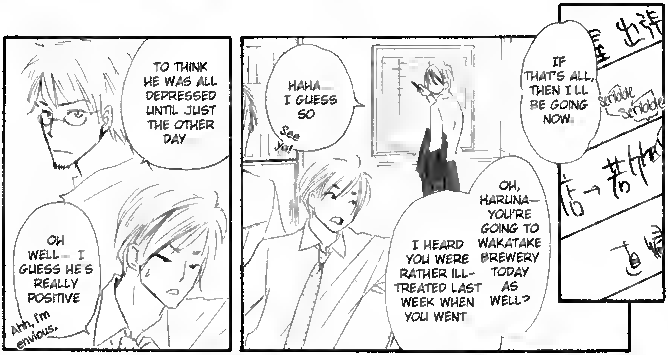
RUB
RUB
RUB
IT GOT INTO MY EYES...
AHH, IT REALLY STINGS!
...JII-CHAN, YOU'RE BEING IRRESPONSIBLE...
tearY
HUH?!
AHH!
IT HURTS!
tearY
tearY
WHAT IS THIS... SALT...?!
grab
IDIOT!
Whimper
DON'T RUB IT LIKE THAT. IT'LL JUST GET WORSE!
BEAR WITH IT!
GET OVER HERE AND RINSE IT OUT
Whoa.
BUT IT HURTS..
!
Mu-chan...
Mu-chan...
Don't go on rubbing it.
OWW! Ow, it hurts!
CAH enough is enough, let's get going.
drag
drag drag
Ah, man but my eyes hurt so bad, I can't open them and get a better look...
What the hell is this?!
It's the first time I've seen him like this!
Whoa, that's some real progress.

AH, CRAP. MY CLOTHES HAVE SALT IN THEM TOO
NO, THANKS IT'S NOT THAT SERIOUS
IF IT KEEPS HURTING, DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL?
I THINK I'M OK
YEAH... IT STILL FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT SOMETHING IN MY EYE, BUT...
YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
splash
COME TO THINK OF IT, CAN YOU STOP MAKING JII-CHAN ANGRY ALL THE TIME?
EVEN WITHOUT ALL THIS, HIS BLOOD PRESSURE IS PRETTY HIGH
Has my lucky break finally arrived?
UWAH!
Puke
Puke
YOU REALLY DRAGGED ME DOWN THIS TIME
Until a few moments ago I wouldn't have thought it possible.
It's amazing.. we're actually speaking normally and he's being a little kind

WHAT IS THIS SCAR?
A SURGICAL SCAR? OR SOMETHING ?
NO,
JUST A SCAR I GOT WHEN I WAS A LITTLE BRAT...
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE,
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF THING
CAN I TOUCH IT...?

MU-CHAN—
I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOME TOWELS.
tap
tap
YEAH.
NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT PRETTY EASILY...
I...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
HOW ARE YOUR EYES?
THEY'RE FINE NOW, THANKS.
YOU'RE SURE?
NII-CHAN, YOUR TOWEL
AHH, DON'T JUST UNDRESS IN THIS KIND OF PLACE
MU-CHAN I HEATED THE BATH JUST NOW. WHY DON'T YOU GO ON IN?
NII-CHAN, YOU SHOULD GO IN TOO
EH?
But, somehow...
YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO YOUR COMPANY LIKE THIS, CAN YOU? I'LL SEND YOUR SUIT TO THE DRY CLEANER'S.
YOU CAN BORROW SOME OF NII-CHAN'S CLOTHES.
This feels just a little odd

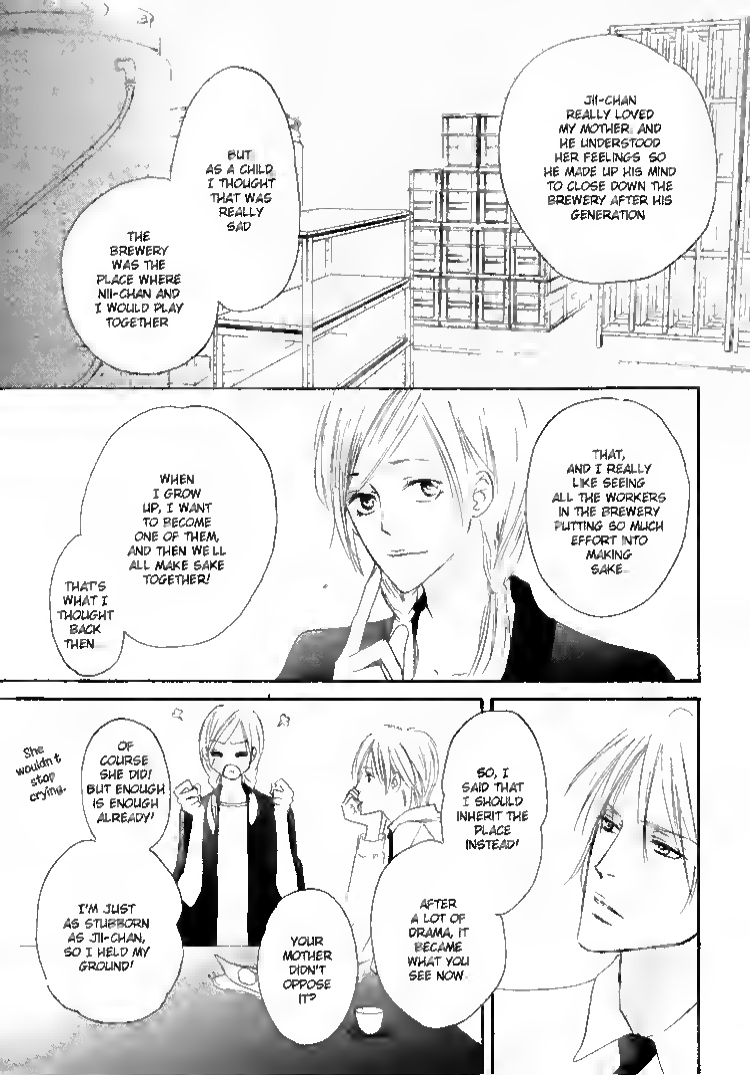
Isn't this...all going the way I wanted it to?
I'm alright.
Moreover, sorry for all the trouble.
Are you really okay? Your eyes are still a little red..


TO THINK HE WAS ALL DEPRESSED UNTIL JUST THE OTHER DAY
OH WELL— I GUESS HE'S REALLY POSITIVE
Ahh, I'm envious.
HAHA— I GUESS SO
See you!
I HEARD YOU WERE RATHER ILL-TREATED LAST WEEK WHEN YOU WENT
OH, HARUNA— YOU'RE GOING TO WAKATAKE BREWERY TODAY AS WELL?
IF THAT'S ALL, THEN I'LL BE GOING NOW.
Scribble Scribble

I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE BACK UNTIL EVENING
OH, IS THAT SO ?
JI-CHAN IS AT A MEETING IN THE CITY
AH I'M SORRY, MU-CHAN

EH? MEANING... HE'S AT OUR OFFICE...
HMM? HE'S AT HIS REGULAR JOB TODAY.
WAS THERE SOME BUSINESS YOU HAD WITH HIM?
HE SAID HE'D COME BY IF HE GETS OFF WORK EARLY.
WELL I'LL DROP BY AGAIN AT THAT TIME.
BY THE WAY...
IS YOUR BROTHER AROUND?
NOTHING IMPORTANT REALLY... I JUST WANTED TO RETURN THE CLOTHES I BORROWED THE OTHER DAY.
OH, YOU CAN JUST PASS THEM TO ME THEN~!
SO I'LL BE GOING THEN
AH, OKAY THANKS.
AHH, WHAT A PITY
clack
AH RIGHT, MU-CHAN!
*TN: Rice cake with red bean filling
DO YOU LIKE EATING MANJUU*?

!
DELICIOUS! YOU'RE AMAZING, HARUNA-CHAN!
HEEHEE~ THANKS
ITADAKI-MASU!
YEP~ I GOT THE RECIPE FROM MY GRANDMOTHER~ TRY IT...
HARUNA-CHAN YOU MADE THESE?
UWAH THEY'RE ALL NICE AND WARM
ACTUALLY, THIS PLACE BELONGS TO MY MOTHER'S SIDE OF THE FAMILY. AND MY MOTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD...
USUALLY, THE MOTHER OF THE HOUSE TAKES OVER
HEY HARUNA-CHAN...
WHY DO YOU WANT TO INHERIT THE BREWERY? IT'S A LOT OF WORK ISN'T IT?
WHY YOU AND NOT YOUR BROTHER?
BUT EVER SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG, SHE SAW HOW HARD THIS JOB REALLY IS.
SO, SHE SAID SHE ABSOLUTELY DIDN'T WANT TO INHERIT THE PLACE AND ADAMANTLY REFUSED TO TAKE IT.


THE BREWERY WAS THE PLACE WHERE NII-CHAN AND I WOULD PLAY TOGETHER
BUT AS A CHILD I THOUGHT THAT WAS REALLY SAD
JII-CHAN REALLY LOVED MY MOTHER. AND HE UNDERSTOOD HER FEELINGS SO HE MADE UP HIS MIND TO CLOSE DOWN THE BREWERY AFTER HIS GENERATION
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT BACK THEN...
WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BECOME ONE OF THEM, AND THEN WE'LL ALL MAKE SAKE TOGETHER!
THAT, AND I REALLY LIKE SEEING ALL THE WORKERS IN THE BREWERY PUTTING SO MUCH EFFORT INTO MAKING SAKE...
She wouldn't stop crying...
OF COURSE SHE DID! BUT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH ALREADY!
I'M JUST AS STUBBORN AS JII-CHAN, SO I HELD MY GROUND!
YOUR MOTHER DIDN'T OPPOSE IT?
SO, I SAID THAT I SHOULD INHERIT THE PLACE INSTEAD!
AFTER A LOT OF DRAMA, IT BECAME WHAT YOU SEE NOW.

ACTUALLY, I THINK NII-CHAN WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE OVER THE PLACE AS WELL.
I'M PRETTY SURE HE THINKS THE SAME WAY I DO.
REALLY...
BUT MOTHER WOULDN'T ALLOW THAT.
NII-CHAN WAS REALLY GOOD WITH HIS STUDIES. SO SHE WANTED HIM TO GET INTO A GOOD UNIVERSITY AND GET A GOOD JOB TO BE A DUTIFUL SON.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR NII-CHAN, I'D PROBABLY BE AN OFFICE LADY OR A REGULAR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE! I'M PRETTY SURE!
Ahhh.
SO NII-CHAN TOOK THE PATH THAT MY MOTHER CHOSE FOR HIM.
WHICH IS WHY SHE SLOWLY AGREED TO ALLOW ME TO BECOME THE CHIEF BREWER HERE.
HEY! HARUNA!
WHAT'S ALL THIS? YOU JUST LEFT ALL THIS LAYING HERE AND LEAVE THE SHOP?
WAH, NII-CHAN IS BACK.
YEAH, YEAH, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING!
I'LL DEFINITELY BE THERE!
BUT I NEVER REGRETTED MY DECISION. YOU SHOULD COME SEE THIS YEAR'S FERMENTATION PREPARATIONS.
IT SURE IS.
THAT SO...?
IT MUST BE HARD HAVING TO STICK WITH ALL THE TRADITIONS, RIGHT?

WHAT A PAIN—
SO NOISY
Good afternoon, sorry to bother you
Smile
WHAT?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEFT THINGS HALF-FINISHED. WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?
I'M SORRY ALREADY!
NII-CHAN WANT SOME MANJUU?
SURE
TAP
TAP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU
I WAS TASTING SOME OF THE MANJUU THAT HARUNA-CHAN MADE
THEY'RE REALLY DELICIOUS
OH AND THIS

CREAK
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS HERE, RETURN TO YOUR COMPANY.
YOU...
HMM, I...
HARUNA! DON'T BOTHER ABOUT THE MANJUU FOR ME. I'M NOT HAVING ANY
YOU REALLY HAVE A LOT OF TIME ON YOUR HANDS
HATE ME THAT MUCH??
DO YOU REALLY..
WHAT?

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU BEING A GUY
AND JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR I DON'T HATE YOU
THIS IS JUST THE WAY I AM.
EVEN THOUGH I'M A GUY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HATE ME SO OPENLY.
shuffle
shuffle
IT'S TROUBLE-SOME
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF JUST FORGETTING IT. AND RIGHT HERE AND NOW...
grab
I DON'T WANT TO...
WHA...
HEY.
I DON'T...
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP FOR REASONS LIKE THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO!
I REALLY LIKE YOU!
I KNEW I LOVED YOU WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU.

What's wrong with me? I'm feeling kinda weird..
What?
YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY FROM IT JUST BECAUSE YOU THINK IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE ...
I REALLY
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
Woah! What's going on? I'm so close to him!
He really is a great guy... My heart is pounding...
HEY
HUH?
What's wrong with me?
It feels so weird...
Why is everything .. going all dark..
花ひら 林檎の香り
10月7日(火)発売
MB8月号に

Apple-scented Rain of Love

Suzuki wa Hanabira Rango no Kaori

Chapter 02

by Toko Kawai

Leader : Ashcat
Coordinator : Ashcat
Scanners : Hanayuri & Ashcat
Translator : Yuri
Proofreaders : Grayunderpants & Ashcat
Editor : Hanayuri
QC's : Absconder & Grayunderpants & CookieQueen

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open
throb
URGH!?
M... MY HEAD HURTS...!!
!!?
sit up
...?
...?

(*) T/N: Sweet confection usually with bean paste filling.

URGH...
IT'S NOT FAIR TO PUT SAKE INTO MANJUU
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMEONE GET DEAD DRUNK OFF SAKAMANJUU
Eh!!?
WHO WOULD PUT SOMETHING LIKE SAKE INTO MANJUU!?
THAT'S WHAT KIND OF MANJUU THEY ARE!
Don't underestimate the heart of a sake brewery!!
BUT IT'S MY JOB...
YOU HAVE SOME NERVE, COMING HERE TO TALK ABOUT SAKE WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THAT...
I HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SAKE.
IT'S A GENETIC THING.
sit up
AH, MY JOB! THE COMPANY!!
I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO THAT SHOP TODAY...
...NN.
NN...
UGH...
shoop

DON'T GET SO WORKED UP, IDIOT
grab
IT'S OKAY. HARUNA CONTACTED THE COMPANY AND LET THEM KNOW YOU GOT SICK AND THAT WE'RE LETTING YOU SLEEP IT OFF
THEY SAID YOU COULD JUST GO HOME
BUT MY JOB...
R...REAL-LY?
YEAH, SO GO BACK TO SLEEP FOR A LITTLE LONGER
sag
YEAH...

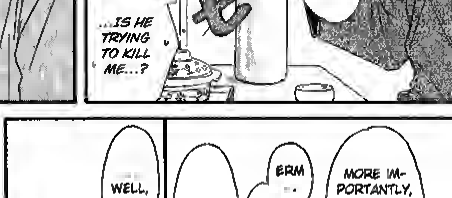
UM,
DID I SAY ANYTHING WEIRD...?
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. GET SOME SLEEP
YOU DON'T REMEMBER? THAT SUCKS
YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST, AND YOUR SKIN IS CLAMMY...
HAHA... WHAT DID I SAY? NO, NEVER MIND. I CAN IMAGINE...
Pat
YEAH...

His warm hand
feels good.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN APPETITE, YOU MUST EAT SOMETHING.
So...here.
... How should I put this.
... OKAY.
HERE, MU-CHAN. DON'T BE SO POLITE. EAT, EAT!
Just what is this situation...
When I woke up, dinner was ready.
UM...
UH...
.....
... ...
I... I'M SO SORRY.
YOU'RE EVEN TREATING ME TO DINNER.

COME ON, JII-CHAN.
MU-CHAN GOT DRUNK OFF THE SAKAMANJUU. THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN DRINK THAT.
jay6
That kinda hurts...

eh
WANT SOME?
...IS HE TRYING TO KILL ME...?

HUH?


WELL,
I'M SORRY...
bob...
OJIIIII-CHAAN.
ERM...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HAVE YOU APOLOGIZED YET?

...YOU TALK TOO MUCH, HARUNA.

SECRETLY, HE FEELS KIND OF BAD, SO THIS IS INTENDED TO MAKE UP FOR IT ALL.
REMEMBER, A LITTLE WHILE AGO, HE THREW SAKE AND SALT ON YOU AND PUT YOU THROUGH A LOT, RIGHT?

GEEZ... YOU'RE SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND, JII-CHAN.

NO... I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU STRAIGHT OUT THAT I CAN'T DRINK SAKE...
I JUST THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE TOO AWKWARD TO TELL YOU, WHEN I WAS THE ONE ASKING YOU FOR SOMETHING...
I'M SORRY...
EVEN IF YOU'D SAID YOU COULDN'T DRINK IT, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THAT SOMEONE COULD HAVE SUCH A LOW TOLERANCE.
Ahaha!
...MY FAMILY HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO DRINK FOR GENERATIONS...
IT'S GENETIC.
We've been drinking for generations.
HMM. GENERATIONS, HUH
WHAT COUNTRY ARE YOU FROM, MU-CHAN?
COUNTRY?
YOUR HOMELAND.
WHERE WERE YOU BORN? IS TOKYO YOUR HOMETOWN?
NO, I WAS BORN... IN L.A.
L.A.?
.....
WHERE'S THAT?
IS IT AN ISLAND SOMEWHERE?
IT'S LOS ANGELES, IN AMERICA...
Yeah.
NO... UM.
Russia? China?
WHAT!?
SORRY, I'M A REVERSE IMMIGRANT
Haha.

Born in Los Angeles! Cool!
AHA! I SEE IT NOW!
SOMEHOW, YOU'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER BUSINESSMEN, MU-CHAN
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR, YOU KNOW?
HA HA
SHAME-LESS AND INCAPABLE OF READING BETWEEN THE LINES, YOU MEAN?
I LIKE YOU! YOU'RE THE COOLEST OUT OF EVERYONE THAT'S COME TO US!
YOU'RE EASY TO UNDER-STAND, NOT SO FORMAL
THAT'S NOT IT
What, so that's your type, Haruna?!!
I can't read between the lines either.
WHEN I CAME BACK HERE
I WAS IN, OH, MIDDLE SCHOOL
HOW SHOULD I SAY IT? I'M TOO PLAIN-SPOKEN, I GUESS
IT'S BECAUSE I WAS RAISED IN AN ENVI-RONMENT THAT ENCOURAGED ASSERTIVENESS
HAHA, THANK YOU.
NOT BEING AFRAID OF STRANGERS IS ONE OF MY STRONG POINTS
click

WELL, I GUESS I DID HAVE SOME PROBLEMS IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL...?
THINGS ARE A LOT BETTER NOW
He's such a jerk.
Who does he think he is?
NOW, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T HOLD BACK AND
CAUSE EVERYONE TROUBLE
BY SAYING SOME-THING I SHOULD NOT
I DON'T SEE ANY-THING WRONG WITH THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT SAYING IT TO BE SPITEFUL,
RIGHT, NII-CHAN?
..
Why ask me...?
ISN'T IT BETTER TO JUST SAY THINGS CLEARLY, WITHOUT SECRET-LY WONDERING WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING?
OH... IF YOU SAY SO
NO, THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT
IS THIS THE SCENT OF SAKE?
...THIS SMELLS GOOD

(*) T/N: Sake made with at least 50% polished rice and very precise methods. It's considered the pinnacle of the brewers' art, and is generally light, complex, and fragrant.
IT SMELLS GOOD.
THIS SCENT IS COMING FROM THE SAKE?
.....
COME ON, JII-CHAN! HE CAN'T!
FIZZ
WANT TO TRY A MOUTH-FUL?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS OUR DAI-GINJOU*.
OH, YEAH SAKE WITH ALCOHOL IN IT CAN BE VERY HARSH.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT SAKE HAD A SHARPER ODOR.
THAT'S RIGHT
FRAGRANCE IS A SPECIAL FEATURE OF GINJOU-SHU.
.....
IT REALLY DOES SMELL GOOD. IT'S AMAZING, LIKE A FRUIT.
I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE... I WANT TO TRY IT.
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S JUNMAI DAIGINJOU! THAT'S MADE WITH JUST RICE, WATER, AND KOUJI*!
BUT OURS IS DIFFER-ENT.
Our top-seller is called "Fragrance of Heaven." It's a type of Junmai daiginjou! We also release limited seasonal products. I like it unfiltered!
(*) T/N: Mold which grows on rice and is used as a starter for sake.

splash
AH.
Here I go.
MM... TRY LICKING IT
It's great
SINCE YOU WANT TO TRY IT AND ALL! RIGHT, JII-CHAN?
MAYBE YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH JUST A LICK?
KNOCK IT OFF.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL BE FINE. IF YOU END UP GOING TO THE HOSPITAL, DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.
!
Flick
AND JII-CHAN AND HARUNA!
DON'T GO SAYING THINGS THAT WILL MAKE HIM WANT TO DRINK
Hmph...
I'm sorry.
HONESTLY
YOU GUYS ARE HEARTLESS
clink
I'M SORRY
droop
BUT

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY EVERYONE'S HANGING AROUND, TRYING TO GET KURAMOTO'S SAKE.
...EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T DRUNK IT,
I WANT TO GIVE MORE PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO DRINK IT
IN EXCHANGE FOR MY NOT BEING ABLE TO!
I HAVEN'T GOTTEN YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE ME YET,
BUT FROM NOW ON, REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU THROW AT ME,
I'LL BE EVEN MORE SHAMELESS AND STUBBORN WHEN I COME TO PLEAD WITH YOU.
Hmph...
SO PLEASE KEEP ME IN MIND!
DO YOUR BEST, MU-CHAN. I'M SUPPORTING YOU!
WHEN I BECOME THE KURAMOTO, YOU'LL HAVE THE CONTRACT INSTANTLY!
UNTIL JII-CHAN DI... RETIRES, JUST HANG IN THERE!
I WILL!
...Ah...
!!
Shock
D... Die!!?
Haru...!! You were going to say 'die' just now, weren't you!?

H...He smiled...?
DID HE JUST SMILE!?
HE'S SMILING...!! THAT'S THE FIRST TIME... THE FIRST ONE I'VE SEEN!!
snore
snore
click
...HUH?
YOU DIDN'T DRINK ANY SAKE TODAY, NII-CHAN?
...YEAH I DROVE
WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SPEND THE NIGHT? YOU WERE GOING TO HELP WITH TOMORROW'S DELIVERIES...
OH...YEAH, I GUESS I JUST DIDN'T FEEL LIKE DRINKING...

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE TODAY
WELL, I SHOULD BE LEAVING
DID YOU FIND THE BATHROOM, MU-CHAN?
YES, THANK YOU
HUH THAT'S RARE
creak
I SHOULD SAY GOOD-BYE TO KU-RAMOTO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT HE'S SLEEPING I'LL TELL HIM
snore
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY? YOU'RE NOT DIZZY ANYMORE? YOU COULD SPEND THE NIGHT IF YOU WANTED TO
NO I REALLY COULDN'T INCONVENIENCE YOU LIKE THAT
BESIDES, I HAVE WORK TOMORROW, AND I FEEL FINE
REALLY? TAKE CARE, THEN
I WILL.
Um...
creak
UM

I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.
SIZZLE
I DROVE HERE.
I'LL BRING THE CAR AROUND FRONT, SO HOLD ON A SEC.
HUH?
UM... BYE...
I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERY-THING.
HUH?
HE'S SO DISHONEST.
OH... I SEE.
I WAS WONDERING WHY, BUT NOW I SEE.
EVEN THOUGH HE USUALLY GUZZLES SAKE
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS PLANNING ON SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE TONIGHT, HE DIDN'T DRINK ANYTHING,
—THANKS

HE'S HARD TO GET AND EASY TO MIS-UNDERSTAND,
BUT MY BROTHER IS REALLY KIND.
AH, SO IS JII-CHAN!
IT WAS SO HE COULD DRIVE YOU HOME.
YEAH
YOU'RE RIGHT.

Apple-scented Rain of Happiness
Suzuiro Ringo no Kaori
Chapter 3
by Toko Kawai
Coordinator: dustykitty
Scanner: Ryoya Konoe + dustykitty
Translator: Yuri
Proofreader: Black Boxers + dustykitty
Editor: Ryoya Konoe
QC: Paipan Sx Ashitaka
FORBIDDEN
DELIGHT
http://

IT WAS SO HE COULD DRIVE YOU HOME.

...Y
HEY NA.
This feels good...
HARUNA!
JUMP
EH...
HUH?
SORRY TO WAKE YOU UP, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.
WHERE DO I GO AFTER THIS?
HUH? WHERE ARE WE?
When did I fall asleep?
WE'RE AT THE INTER-SECTION PAST THE SUBWAY STATION.
WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?
AH... YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE.
IT'S A ONE-WAY STREET, SO YOU CAN'T GO IN ANY-WAY...
...THANK YOU...
...HAH...
Man, I'm an idiot.
sigh
...WHAT'S WITH YOU? DO YOU STILL FEEL SICK?
NO
THAT'S NOT IT.

WE WERE FINALLY ALONE TOGETHER.
droop
wince
IT'S SUCH A WASTE TO HAVE SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL—
I SHOULD HAVE ENJOYED MYSELF MORE—
YOU'RE SUCH AN OPTIMIST.
Where do you get that unbreakable force of will...?
—BUT SERIOUSLY, COULD YOU JUST GIVE IT UP ALREADY?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN ROMANCE
I THINK YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE YOU. I JUST—
THEN

TELL ME, "I DON'T LIKE YOU".
I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WON'T GIVE UP UNLESS YOU SAY THAT KIND OF THING
I'M VERY STUBBORN
Hehe.
TELL ME NOT TO COME NEAR YOU AGAIN.
click
THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
SEE YOU.
.....
slam
I'D LIKE TO PUT OFF THE DEPRESSION FOR A LATER DATE.
BUT COULD YOU HOLD OFF FOR NOW?
I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY.
tap
tap

wobble
MAN
Well, it's no different from usual.
REJECTED AGAIN
IT'S ESPECIALLY HARSH AFTER SUCH KINDNESS FROM HIM
wobble
stagger
I REALLY AM AN ANNOYANCE
IT'S SAD, BUT GIVING UP IS IMPORTANT TOO
HUH?
AM I STILL DRUNK?
bang
I CAN'T WALK STRAIGHT
stagger
wobble
AH...
AH...
AH...
grab
GOTCHA
Huh?

ARE YOU OKAY?
THERE'S STILL SOME ALCOHOL IN YOUR SYSTEM, ISN'T THERE?
OH
HUH?
YOU'RE STAGGERING
IT'S SCARY JUST WATCHING YOU.
SORRY
I WAS ALRIGHT UP UNTIL NOW
IT'S FINE CAN YOU GO A LITTLE FURTHER?
YEAH
Probably
HERE
DRINK THIS
THANK YOU
I'M A BOTHER TO THE END. I'M SORRY
AH... IT'S TRUE.
I'M GOING TO TELL HARUNA TO RETHINK THE INGREDIENTS OF HER SAKA-MANJUU.
sting
sting
Hm...
...

SO, WHICH IS YOUR HOUSE? THAT BROWN APARTMENT BUILDING?
OH... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
HMM
IF I BRING IT AROUND, WE COULD TAKE THE CAR.
BUT YOUR BUILDING IS SO CLOSE, IT MIGHT BE FASTER TO JUST DRAG YOU ALONG...
NAKAGAWA-SAN,
YOU'RE A CRUEL MAN.

YOU'RE A HORRIBLE MAN.
BUT YOU'RE KIND
YOU'RE INDIFFERENT TO ME
EVERY TIME I START TO THINK THAT I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP
YOU'RE NICE TO ME AND I LOSE MY RESOLVE
AND THINK THAT I WANT TO LOVE YOU A LITTLE WHILE LONGER
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE COLD
YOU ARE.
I'M NOT PARTICULARLY KIND

HAHA
HA
IS THERE REALLY NO CHANCE...?
SORRY.
I SEE
sniffle
...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
MM?
HEY, YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING.
sniffle
sniffle
sniffle
WHATEVER.
I'M TRYING TO GET ALL SENTIMENTAL AND ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS SNOT.
YOU'RE HORRIBLE NAKAGAWA-SAN
.....
.....
sniffle
sniffle
sniffle
whimper
whimper
whimper
WAS IT A BROKEN HEART THAT CAUSED YOUR DISTRUST OF LOVE?

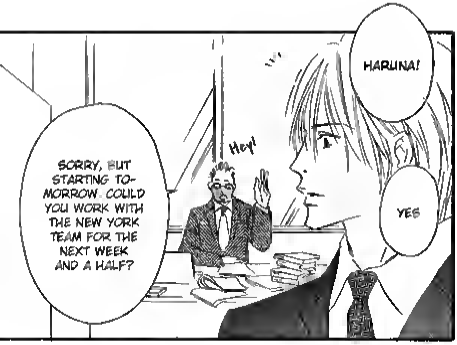
...WAS IT A BROKEN HEART?
...IS A BROKEN HEART THE ONLY OPTION?
IT WAS, WASN'T IT?
...IF YOU DON'T ANSWER ME, I'LL DRIP MY SNOT ON YOU
SNIFF!
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF.
...THE FIRST WOMAN I TRULY LOVED
WAS MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE.
...DON'T TELL ANYONE
I WON'T
SO, YOUR TRUEST LOVE WAS ADULTEROUS
THAT'S ROUGH. I DATED A GUY WITH A WIFE AND KIDS ONCE, BUT IT WAS A DISASTER.
...FOR REAL?
REALLY.

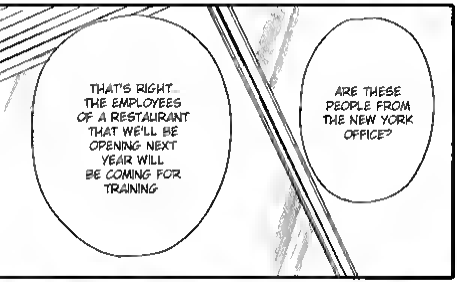
Damn it.
...BONDS CREATED BY A SCRAP OF PAPER... HUH?
YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
Oh, I see...
It turned out he was just playing with me!!
THE BONDS CREATED BY A SCRAP OF PAPER WERE STRONGER THAN I'D THOUGHT.
THE TWO OF THEM WERE EVEN ON THE BRINK OF DIVORCE!
SHOULDN'T HIS WIFE BE THE ANGRY ONE HERE?
The man who rejects me
is always attractive.
BUT CAN I KISS YOU...?
...HEY.
I'M JUST SAYING THIS BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO LOSE,
WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING, EVEN THOUGH I ALWAYS SAY NO?
WHAT IS YOUR REASONING?
DOES THAT MEAN NO?
...I made him glare at me again.
.....

...GET LOST.
...YOU REALLY NEED TO THINK BEFORE YOU TALK... SERIOUSLY...
...I WANTED TO MAKE
SNIFFLE
OUR LAST MEMORY INTO A GOOD ONE...
SORRY. IT'S JUST FOR A MINUTE. I WON'T GET MY SNOT ON YOU
HAHA... I'M FINE. I'M USED TO BEING REJECTED
...Y-
YEAH... SORRY
...HEY...
...
I'M ACTING SO PATHETIC
HAHA
WH... WHEN I GET DRUNK MY TEAR GLANDS LOOSEN...
Even though I'm used to it, that doesn't make it hurt any less...

WAS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
ARE YOU SATISFIED?

YOU DID IT SO SUDDENLY THAT I WAS COMPLETELY UNPREPARED...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
That's gross!
I DIDN'T TASTE YOU AT ALL.
ONE MORE TIME!
NO WAY!
O... ONE MORE TIME!
WHAT!?
grab
!
PLEASE, JUST ONE MORE TIME.
H...
HEY...
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE PERSIST-ENT...
YEAH...
SORRY... HAHA.
...YOU ARE SHAME-LESS.
... YEAH.
.....


HARUNA!
YES
Hey!
SORRY, BUT STARTING TOMORROW. COULD YOU WORK WITH THE NEW YORK TEAM FOR THE NEXT WEEK AND A HALF?


ARE THESE PEOPLE FROM THE NEW YORK OFFICE?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE EMPLOYEES OF A RESTAURANT THAT WE'LL BE OPENING NEXT YEAR WILL BE COMING FOR TRAINING

WILL I BE TRANSLATING?
SOME JAPANESE STAFF WILL BE GOING WITH YOU, AND THEY WANT TO LOOK AROUND. THEY'LL BE RELYING ON YOUR GUIDANCE.
YES... BUT

YES. THANK YOU.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL GO.
IT'S NEARLY STOCKING TIME, SO THIS IS A DO-OR-DIE SITUATION!
WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT WAKATAKE WHILE I'M GONE...?
I SEE. THAT'S GOOD
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL...!
GETTING YELLED AT BY KURAMOTO EVERY DAY MUST BE PRETTY STRESSFUL.
I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I GOT DRUNK
YES, BUT I'M FINE NOW...
I GUESS IT WAS A LITTLE BIT OF ANEMIA OR SOMETHING SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW ARE YOU FEELING? DIDN'T YOU COLLAPSE AT THE WAKATAKE YESTERDAY?
YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO THE WAKATAKE BREWERY EVERYDAY SO YOU'RE EXEMPT. LEAVE THE REST TO ME
IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT KURAMOTO HAS BEEN GRADUALLY SOFTENING UP!
EH...
NO... I CAN GO TODAY...
ALRIGHT! STARTING TODAY, I'LL GO TO THE WAKATAKE!

SPEND SOME TIME RELAXING!
OKAY
MUST BE NICE TO BE EXEMPT FROM WAKATAKE DUTY!
HUH?
YOU WON'T EVER BE EXPOSED TO THE DANGER OF FLYING CRUTCHES AGAIN
YEAH, I GUESS SO
droop
MY EXCUSE TO SEE HIM IS DISAPPEARING...
HUH? WHAT?
NOTHING
...IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD SEE EACH OTHER WHEN HE COMES TO WORK ON THE COMPUTERS, BUT IT PROBABLY WON'T BE THAT EASY...
pout
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HIM HERE ONCE BEFORE...
OH, BUT NOW THAT I THINK OF IT,
?
the next time we see each other,
he's going to reject me...

...He
kissed me, after all.
I really need to give up...
GOOD MORNING
HEY, HARUNA. WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE...? THAT'S NOT A MORNING FACE
Hahaha
waffle
MORNING
waffle

ALL SIX OF THEM WERE INCAPABLE OF MAKING A DECISION AND SPENT THE ENTIRE TIME SAYING, 'I WANT TO GO THERE,' 'I WANT TO TRY THAT,' 'I CAN'T EAT THAT'...
IT REALLY WAS!
Gah
I'M NOT A TOUR GUIDE!!
Yeah, it has.
Oh, it's Haruna-kun. It's been a while
YOU WENT WITH THE NEW YORK TEAM TO NARITA AIRPORT, RIGHT?
DID THEY GET ON ALL RIGHT?
THEY GOT ON. THEY WENT HOME ...!
AFTER THEY SENT ME OUT TO BUY SOUVENIRS FOR THEM!
Hahaha.
MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG TEN DAYS.
WAKA-TAKE.
Probably.
MM... FIRST I NEED TO REPORT... WHERE'S THE CHIEF?
Haruna, I want some coffee?
Please
HAHAHA, SOUNDS HORRIBLE.
YOU'RE TAKING THIS AFTERNOON OFF, RIGHT? YOU SHOULD TAKE IT EASY
WAKA-TAKE.
That's right... I haven't been there for ten days.
It's kind of depressing not to have to go...
Yo, Mu-chan!
I kind of miss Kuramoto's screaming voice...

EXCUSE ME, NAKAGAWA-SAN.
CAN YOU LOOK AT THIS ONE NEXT?
Nakagawa-san... I wonder what his first name is?
pout
Even if it's just his usual expression, I want to see it again.
I really want to see him.
Naka-gawa-san!?
Huh!?
clatter
...Ah.
What is this? Is it fate!?
There he is!

Oh, no. The next time he sees me, he plans to reject me...!!
AH...
I'm... not ready for this.
thump thump thump
AH... NOT YET!!
waaaah
Haruna!?
WOW. WHAT WAS THAT FOR? I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH HARUNA-KUN.
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE. HE'S ALWAYS SO LIVELY.
...NO PRO-BLEM.
Snicker Snicker
HARUNA-KUN IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT, BUT DESPITE IT, HE'S REALLY CAPABLE. HE'S ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF OUR COMPANY.
Heh...
HAVE YOU EVER TALKED TO HARUNA-KUN, NAKAGAWA-SAN?
...YEAH.
A LITTLE IN THE BREAK-ROOM...
WHEN YOU SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING TO HIM, HE'S SO STRANGE IT'S FUN
He's attractive, so it's kind of a shame.

T/N "TENKOU" IS THE NAME OF A SAKE COMPANY.

BUT HARUNA-KUN IS USUALLY RUNNING AROUND OUTSIDE THE OFFICE SO YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T SEEN HIM MUCH, HAVE YOU?
TEN KOU
...HEY
HAS HE LEFT YET?
HUH? THE CHIEF? HE HASN'T COME BACK YET.
DOZE UP...
...OH, IT'S JUST YOU TOKU!
sigh
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? How rude
Just go home instead of falling asleep there...
....HARUNA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Jump
!?
HUH?
NOT HIM.
NO FORGET IT

It wasn't that I wanted to run away.
Seeing his face made me want to talk to him...
HARUNA, HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH?
OHNISHI-SAN IS TAKING ORDERS FOR LUNCH
NO, I'M FINE
sigh
But if I see him,
It might all be over, right?
?
I know that running doesn't change anything, but...
.....
Man... I really am too persistent.
There's really nothing I can do about it
.....HEY, TOKUI THAT COMPUTER REPAIRMAN THAT WAS AROUND BEFORE,
IS HE STILL.....
Creak
DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?
That's love for you

Eek...!
!!
NN.
H...
HI...
HI
Damn it
He really is
good-looking.
.....
NN
I guess
I can't run
away...
collapse
.....

HARUNA AND JII-CHAN
HAVE BEEN WORRIED BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LATELY
...HUH?
THEY'VE BEEN THINKING THAT OUR SAKAMANJUU WERE SO BAD THEY CAUSED YOU SOME KIND OF TRAUMA.
NN
HMM
YOUR BOSS PUTS JII-CHAN IN A HORRIBLE MOOD
Haruna complains too.
WELL, STOP BY SOMETIME
Y... YEAH.
OH... NO!
I'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND DEALING WITH A SEPARATE MATTER FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS...
I WANTED TO GO SEE YOU, THOUGH...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE.
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ANY-ONE THAT I'M FROM WAKATAKE
?
NO
HUH?

WHY?
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE GETTING CLOSE TO ME
IN ORDER TO USE MY CONNECTION TO WAKATAKE TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT
HUH? USE ...?
THIS COMPANY IS MY OFFICE'S BIG CLIENT, DID YOU KNOW?
IF YOU TOLD ME TO PUT PRESSURE ON JII-CHAN, I WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO WHAT YOU WANT
THAT'S...
I WOULD NEVER USE YOU LIKE THAT
THE THOUGHT NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND!
I SIMPLY FELT DRAWN TO YOU. I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.
I WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING THAT DISHONEST
.....

THE OTHER DAY,
AH...
flinch
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT
Heh...
SEVEN WONDERS HUH?
IT'S NO-THING.
HUH?
YOU TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU AN ULTIMATUM.
squeeze
Oh, man, is it finally here...!?
MPH...
AH, THERE YOU ARE! NAKAGA-WA-SAN
I'M SORRY. BEFORE YOU GO, THERE'S ONE MORE THING I NEED YOU TO LOOK AT
—YES I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
SORRY, YOU CAN FINISH YOUR BREAK FIRST.
JUMP
!!

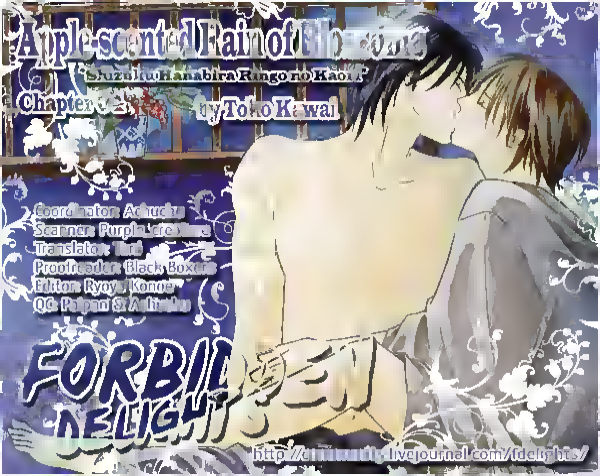
HERE
I BARELY TOUCHED IT
UH... YEAH
IT'S FINE
SEE YOU
Hah...
tremble tremble
AN INDIRECT KISS. ♡
But you did drink a little ♡
Or something like that~ ♡
Gross...
.....
... HEY.
AH
HAHA HA...
Whatever...
Hah...
.....

He didn't say it,
even though it would have been so easy.
It's enough to make me get cocky.
Am I just being too positive, like always?
HEHE
...I guess that's fine.
GOOD EVE-NING
LET KO-CHAN FEED YOUR STARVING TUMMY
rattle
Kochan's Kitchen
OH, IT'S MUTSUKI-CHAN WELCOME
WE HAVE A RARE VISITOR TODAY
YO
AH.

YOU-SUKE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHEN DID YOU GET BACK FROM PARIS?
SCRAPE
LAST WEEK.
MY OLDER SISTER WAS GETTING MARRIED. I'M GOING BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
How many years has it been?
About a year.
IF YOU WERE BACK, YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED ME.
WE COULD AT LEAST EAT TOGETHER.
...THAT'S TRUE, BUT I...
I'd like Oolong tea and today's special
WHY?
IT WAS AN AMICABLE DIVORCE AFTER ALL.
DON'T CALL IT A DIVORCE
WASN'T SURE YOU'D WANT TO HEAR FROM THE GUY YOU BROKE UP WITH...
Bonjour!
Merci beaucoup! C'est très bon!
Does my French make me cooler?
BY THE WAY, HOW'S IT GOING? YOUR TRAINING AS A PASTRY CHEF, THAT IS
GREAT! I CAN FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE, SO IT'S PERFECT!
Wait!
I'M IN LOVE!
WITH A REALLY GREAT GUY!
I'd like
WHAT!?
YOU-SUKE, LISTEN!
LISTEN, LISTEN!
HOW'S WORK...
HOW ABOUT YOU, MUTSUKI?

Come on. There're no other guests, so let me in on the conversation.
IT'S MUTSUKI-CHAN, SO HE'S PROBABLY IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER STRAIGHT GUY, RIGHT?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE ALWAYS CRYING OVER SITUATIONS LIKE THAT.
You haven't changed at all, Haruno...
...YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER.
BUT THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO TALK TO. CAN YOU NOT BE SO UP-TIGHT AND JUST LISTEN?
IS THIS REALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR EX ABOUT?
...YEAH, YEAH.
Listen, listen!
BUT THE CLOSER I GET, THE MORE HE TALKS TO ME.
HE EVEN SMILES SOMETIMES! THE OTHER DAY, HE EVEN...
MM... BUT THIS TIME THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL.
THIS GUY IS SO COOL, OR SHOULD I SAY ANTI-SOCIAL? HE WAS SO COLD WHEN I MET HIM!
rattle
GOOD EVE-NING
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE
RIGHT, RIGHT!?
I THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE A MIRACLE...
grab
THEN THINGS ARE GOING IN A GOOD DIRECTION?
WHAT ... SERI-OUSLY?
KISSED ME!!
Even though I'd kind of force him.

Let go already.
Huh?
I'VE BROUGHT YOUR WEEKLY DELIVERY OF SAKE
IS THIS ENOUGH?
TENKOU
HAKATAKI BREWERY LTD.
OH THANK YOU
IT'S NOT HARUNA-CHAN TODAY, HUH
You're very handsome.


Apple-scented Rain of Happiness
Shizuku Ringo no Kaori
Chapter 2
by Toko Kawai
Coordinator: Achuchu
Scanner: Purple Greyness
Translator: Yuri
Proofreader: Black Boxers
Editor: Ryoyi Konoe
QC: Patpan Sa Anihan
FORBIDDEN
DELIGHTS
http://

?
AH...
An acquaintance? Anyway, let go of me already
HUH? NAKAGAWA-SAN?
YOU DELIVER TO THIS SHOP? I HAD NO IDEA.
Wow. What a coincidence!
HERE'S YOUR BILL SEE YOU.
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK

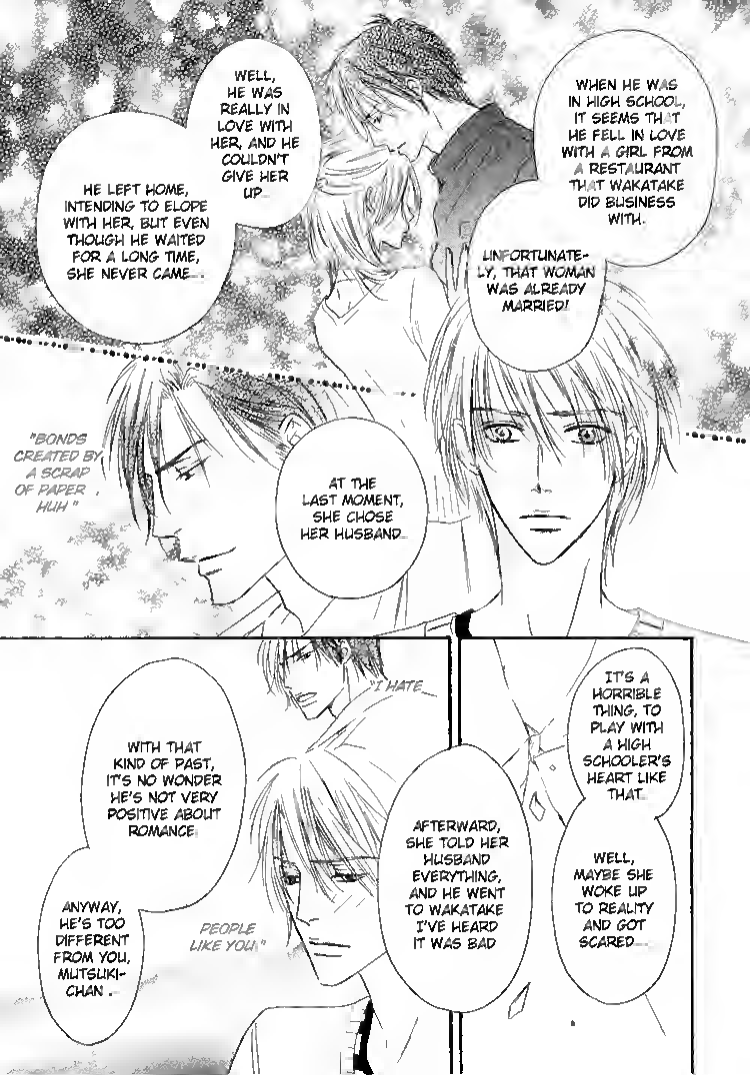
SLAM
push
MPH?!
ignored?
UH... HUH?
grab
UM, HEY...?
rattle

SLAM
NAKA-GAWA-SAN!
NAKA-GAWA-SAN.
WAIT. WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME? DID I DO SOMETHING TO UPSET YOU?
—I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
ENOUGH.
I'M AN IDIOT.
I HATE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
PLEASE, DON'T BOTHER ME ANYMORE.

HEY, MUTSUKI-CHA...
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY FROM WAKATAKE?
MUTSUKI-CHAN! WHERE DID YOU GO?
OH, YOU'RE FINALLY BACK
rattle
!!
I... IF HE'S GOING TO HATE ME OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS,
HEY, MUTSUKI!?
MU... MUTSUKI-CHAN!? WHAT'S WRONG?

MUTSUKI-CHAN...
DON'T TELL ME THE PERSON YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH IS...
I'M AN IDIOT... A REAL IDIOT.
I SHOULD HAVE JUST GIVEN UP ON HIM...!
Reserved for the Day
Here, have some hand towels.
BUT...
YOU'RE AN IDIOT, MUTSUKI-CHAN.
FALLING FOR A DIFFICULT GUY LIKE THAT...
Nuh...
...HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM, ANY-WAY?
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU GOT ALCOHOL FROM WAKATAKE...
I SEE...
IT'S FAMOUS AND A HUGE DRAW FOR THIS PLACE.
I guess you wouldn't know since you don't drink.
blow
WELL, BECAUSE OF THAT, I SERVE THE LEGENDARY FRAGRANCE OF HEAVEN!
THE TRUTH IS, MY FATHER IS GOOD FRIENDS WITH WAKATAKE'S KURAMOTO..
YOU'RE BEHIND THE TIMES. I'VE ALWAYS SERVED "FRAGRANCE OF HEAVEN."
天香

WELL, IT'S NO WONDER SOMEONE LIKE THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GUY LIKE YOU, MUTSUKI-CHAN.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?
Now now.. Stop crying already. You're an adult after all.
I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS REJECTED AND BATTERED...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
ABOUT THAT GUY FROM WAKATAKE
OH, YEAH. HE LOOKED LIKE A PRETTY INFLEXIBLE GUY.
YOU'RE SO RUDE! BOTH OF YOU!
Not the type that would be drawn to Mutsuki.
I'M NOT ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND!
THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO'S ALWAYS RUNNING AROUND, FALLING IN AND OUT OF LOVE, WOULDN'T WORK WITH HIM.
Don't tell anyone else.
MM... MAYBE I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT... IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
...YOU SEEM PRETTY WELL-INFORMED, KO-CHAN. WHY?
WELL...
THERE ARE A LOT OF RUMORS ABOUT THAT GUY.
RUMORS?
THIS HAPPENED ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO NOW..


WELL, HE WAS REALLY IN LOVE WITH HER, AND HE COULDN'T GIVE HER UP...
HE LEFT HOME, INTENDING TO ELOPE WITH HER, BUT EVEN THOUGH HE WAITED FOR A LONG TIME, SHE NEVER CAME...
WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, IT SEEMS THAT HE FELL IN LOVE WITH A GIRL FROM A RESTAURANT THAT WAKATAKE DID BUSINESS WITH.
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WOMAN WAS ALREADY MARRIED!
"BONDS CREATED BY A SCRAP OF PAPER, HUH"
AT THE LAST MOMENT, SHE CHOSE HER HUSBAND...
"I HATE
IT'S A HORRIBLE THING, TO PLAY WITH A HIGH SCHOOLER'S HEART LIKE THAT...
WITH THAT KIND OF PAST, IT'S NO WONDER HE'S NOT VERY POSITIVE ABOUT ROMANCE.
AFTERWARD, SHE TOLD HER HUSBAND EVERYTHING, AND HE WENT TO WAKATAKE I'VE HEARD IT WAS BAD
WELL, MAYBE SHE WOKE UP TO REALITY AND GOT SCARED...
ANYWAY, HE'S TOO DIFFERENT FROM YOU, MUTSUKI-CHAN.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU."

I KNOW IT HURTS,
BUT SOMETIMES ALL YOU CAN DO IS GIVE UP
WOW,
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYES, MU-CHAN!?
THEY'RE BRIGHT RED!?
And they're swollen!
HAHA IT'S NOTHING
DID YOU GET YELLED AT FOR NOT GETTING THE CONTRACT WITH US?
NO! THAT'S NOT

Your older brother rejected me, and I spent all night crying.
I CAN'T SAY THAT HAHA..
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT WEARING THEM
MY CONTACTS ARE BOTHERING ME .
LIM, WHERE'S KURAMOTO?
TODAY, OJII-CHAN IS VISITING ONE OF THE FARMERS WE HAVE A CONTRACT WITH MY BROTHER WENT WITH HIM
A FARMER?
IT'S ABOUT RICE IT'S TIME TO START STOCKING UP SOON
OH—
That's good. I wasn't sure I could face him any way.
.. but ..
I want to at least clear up the misunder standing and apologize
HM? WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SAD THAT MY BROTHER ISN'T HERE?
H... HUH!?
WHY !?
ba-thump
Ha ha ha!
WELL, YOU ALWAYS SEEM DISAPPOINTED WHEN MY BROTHER ISN'T HERE.
OH, SHIT? OH, SHIT!?
ba-thump
OH— R REALLY?
ba-thump
REALLY
HAHA
AS HIS YOUNGER SISTER, I'M SO HAPPY THAT YOU CAN BE CLOSE TO SUCH AN ANTISOCIAL PERSON
Please stick with it
HAHA

OH, MU-CHAN AS A FRIEND, YOU SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO MY BROTHER.
TELL HIM IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP AND COME TO THE GRANARY!
THE GRANARY?
YES!
WE'RE GOING TO START STOCKING SOON,
AND WHEN WE DO, WE ALWAYS HAVE LIVE-IN WORKERS COME FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE.
THEY'RE ALL MEN WHO ARE WAY OLDER THAN I AM.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I GET SELF-CONSCIOUS, AND THINGS DON'T GO THE WAY I WANT THEM TO...
I'M THE CHIEF BREWER, AND I KNOW IT'S NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE PLACE, BUT THEY HAVE SO MUCH MORE EXPERIENCE THAN I DO.
IT'S TOUGH FOR A GIRL LIKE ME TO BE THE CHIEF BREWER.
YOU KNOW, SOMEDAY I WANT
TO CREATE A NEW KIND OF SAKE. A SAKE THAT SMELLS LIKE APPLES.
A SAKE THAT YOUNG WOMEN CAN ENJOY!
THE SMELL OF APPLES?
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
RIGHT!

THEN, HE ENJOYS WORKING AS A SYSTEM ENGINEER?
WELL, IF HE DID, HE'D HAVE TO QUIT HIS JOB AT THE COMPANY...
BUT RIGHT NOW, EVEN THOUGH HE'LL HELP WITH DELIVERIES, HE REFUSES TO HELP WITH STOCKING...
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO MY BROTHER WITHOUT RESERVATIONS...
...AH.
SO HE SEEMS TO THINK THAT IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO WORK IN THE GRANARY...
IT CAUSED SOME ANNOYANCE,
shake
IN THE PAST, THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE WHILE HE WAS WORKING IN THE GRANARY...
...NO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT...
THE TRUTH IS, I REALLY THINK THAT MY BROTHER WANTS TO MAKE SAKE
That's...
"AFTERWARD, SHE TOLD HER HUSBAND EVERYTHING, AND HE WENT TO WAKATAKE I'VE HEARD IT WAS BAD."

I MEAN,
WHEN WE WERE CHILDREN, WE ALWAYS PLAYED IN THE GRANARY, WATCHING OJII-CHAN WORK
HE LOVES THIS PLACE
JUST AS MUCH AS I DO.
Me, too
When I grow up I'm going to make sake
Ojii-chan s so cool...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AH MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU THAT
HEY, MU-CHAN. DO YOU WANT SOME TEA?
I'm making some new manjuu, too. How about it?
THANKS, BUT I HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE I HAVE TO GO MAYBE NEXT TIME.
PLEASE, GIVE MY REGARDS TO KURAMOTO I'LL COME AGAIN!
OKAY

HM?
NO... IT'S NOTHING SEE YOU LATER.
THANKS. SEE YOU.
"PLEASE, DON'T BOTHER ME ANY-MORE."
...AND
crunch
...How
HAHA
did I overcome unrequited loves before now?
Some-how...
...WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO LOVE AGAIN...?

HEY, HARUNA COULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS NEW SHOP'S MENU
PUSH!
HEY, HARUNA!
HUH? OH... SORRY. WHAT?
HA... RU... NA!
WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT OVER!?
Hello!
THIS COULD YOU CHECK THE ENGLISH MENU?
YEAH, SURE
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU WERE IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD BEFORE, AND NOW YOU'RE DEPRESSED
DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN WITH WAKATAKE?
OH... NO, IT DIDN'T...
...EXCEPT IT DID...? NO... UM...
WHAT?
NO, NO. IT'S NOT RELATED TO WORK
appear
HUH?
IT'S DEFINITELY UNREQUITED LOVE!
Right?
HUH... REALLY!?
'OH... NO.
COME ON A WHILE AGO, THERE WAS A DAY WHEN HIS EYES WERE ALL RED AND SWOLLEN, RIGHT?
Something happened the day before Definitely
OH, THERE WAS! HE LOOKED HORRIBLE
.....

REMEMBERING.
HEY, HARUNA.
Don't worry!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE REALLY POPULAR IT'LL BE FINE!
D... DON'T BE SAD!
I'M SURE YOU'LL MEET SOME-ONE NEW!
droop
Haha...
BULL'S EYE!
HE'S TOO TRANSPARENT...
The con-ference room?
Not his office?
YES
YES
DO YOU HAVE A MIN-UTE?
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM...
S-SURE
SORRY, I'LL TELL YOU LATER!
I HAVE TO GO TO WAKA-TAKE
OH, HARU-NA...
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? TALKING IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM...

"BUT THE TEAM THAT VISITED A FEW WEEKS AGO REALLY LIKED YOU AND WANT YOU TO GO."
"IT'S NOT THAT THEY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH OUR LOCAL STAFF,"
"THE OPENING IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN A BIT CHAOTIC."
"HARUNA, WILL YOU GO TO NEW YORK?"
"WE'LL RESPECT YOUR WISHES IN THAT AREA."
"THERE'S NO SET TIME PERIOD FOR THIS."

THE DETAILS STILL AREN'T SET IN STONE,
BUT I'LL BE GOING TO THE U.S.A NEXT MONTH.
WHAT!?
NEW YORK!?
"AS A MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT, I WOULD EVEN ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER THIS A PROMOTION."
OH... IT'S NO FAIR. AFTER I MADE FRIENDS WITH YOU AND EVERYTHING...
I'LL BRING BY THE PERSON WHO'LL BE TAKING MY PLACE ANOTHER DAY.

HAHA.
I wish.
IT SEEMS LIKE OJII-CHAN LIKES YOU, TOO.
UM,
WHAT ABOUT MY BRO-THER?
HE'S CLEANING THE WORKSHOP RIGHT NOW...
DID YOU MAYBE GET IN A FIGHT WITH HIM?
HUH?
A COUPLE DAYS AGO, WHEN I TRIED TO TALK ABOUT YOU, HE TOLD ME NOT TO...
I DID SOMETHING A LITTLE IRRESPON-SIBLE.
I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM BEFORE I LEFT...
COULD I GO TO THE WORK-SHOP...?
scratch
scratch

HELLO.
I DIDN'T INTEND TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO LISTEN, BUT I'M GOING TO TALK ANYWAY.
I
I WILL BE GOING TO THE NEW YORK BRANCH NEXT MONTH
THE TIME PERIOD ISN'T FIXED YET
BUT I MIGHT END UP STAYING THERE.
ANYWAY, YOU WON'T BE SEEING ME AGAIN, SO DON'T WORRY

...WELL, BEFORE I DISAPPEAR, I WANTED TO CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING.
THE OTHER DAY THAT WAS ONE OF MY EX-BOYFRIENDS WE'RE JUST FRIENDS NOW, AND IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'D SEEN EACH OTHER.
I GOT CARRIED AWAY AND WAS BRAGGING, "I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE RIGHT NOW." UM...
...I HEARD...
Ko-chan...
UM...
THEN...
HUH?
...THE LAST TIME I TOOK A DELIVERY THERE, THAT CRAZY MANAGER FORCED ME TO LISTEN
IT DOESN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
IT'S OVER.

...HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
HUH ...?
... WHY?
TELL ME YOUR FIRST NAME.
I MIGHT NOT COME BACK.
I'M GOING TO AMERICA, AFTER ALL.
...YEAH.

...SHUU-SAKU.
Nuttttnk
Sigh.
SHUU-SAKU? HOW DO YOU WRITE IT?
WITH THE KANJI FOR 'AUTUMN' AND 'TO MAKE'
COME ON, YOUR NAME!
.....
I AT LEAST WANT TO KNOW THE FIRST NAME OF THE GUY THAT I FELL FOR!
Haha.
WHY DO YOU THINK?

IT'S A PERFECT NAME FOR A BREWER.
AUTUMN IS THE SEASON FOR STOCKING, AFTER ALL.
SHUUSAKU WITH THE KANJI FOR 'AUTUMN' AND 'TO MAKE'

HARUNA-CHAN TOLD ME
THAT SHE WANTS YOU TO MAKE SAKE WITH HER.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE SAKE, TOO.
I'D LOVE TO MANAGE THAT SAKE SOMEDAY.
---WELL,
GOOD-BYE.

I bet you'd complain if I did show up.
HAHA, I TOLD YOU, I'LL BE TRAVELING BETWEEN HERE AND THERE, SO WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER A LOT
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW I'LL BE LONELY
I DO THANKS
rattle
TOKUI, DO YOU WANT THIS? IT'S A GIFT CARD FOR A COFFEE SHOP
HEY! IS ANYONE FREE!?
GO TO WAKATAKE!
HUH? THE FLIGHT IS AT SIX
WHAT TIME DOES YOUR PLANE LEAVE TOMORROW AGAIN?
WELL, I GUESS
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THERE WAS A FIRE AT WAKATAKE, AND THINGS ARE PRETTY BAD.
I HEARD THIS FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE, SO I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS,
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HARU-NA BUT YOU'RE LEAVING TOMOR-ROW
IT'S FINE. I'LL GO!
I'LL CONTACT YOU IMME-DIATELY.
O... OKAY.
I'm counting on you!
stiffen
CAN SOMEONE GO AND SEE JUST WHAT IS GOING ON?
I'LL GO!

FLAP FLAP FLAP
Just where
was this fire...?
kuh
.....
kuh
kuh

I HEARD THERE WAS A FIRE...
UM HUH?
EH?
HUH?
YEAH!
YEAH
WHAT'S WRONG? WOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
OH, MU-CHAN?
AH...
WAS IT THE WARE-HOUSE!?
HA HA HA!
NO, NO THE FIRE WAS IN THE RICE GRANARY OF ONE OF THE FARMERS THAT WE HAVE A CONTRACT WITH!
MORE THAN HALF OF THE RICE THAT WE USE WAS BURNED
HA HA...
WHICH
HAHA... ISN'T REALLY SOMETHING TO BE LAUGHING ABOUT...
WITHOUT RICE, WE CAN'T MAKE SAKE... HAHA...
WE USUALLY USE A VARIETY OF INTERME-DIARIES TO OBTAIN RICE.
BUT THIS WAS SO SUDDEN WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
IT WAS EXPENSIVE RICE, AND THERE'S NOT MUCH OF A SUR-PLUS...
...RICE
OB-TAINING RICE...

THUD
AH!
SORR...
clatter
I'LL BE IN TOUCH!
I'LL BE BACK!!
RICE!
HUH? MU-CHAN!?
rise
AH...
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP!
HUH?
ANYWAY, I'LL BE BACK!!
.....
I'M HERE FOR A REA-SON ...!!
I... I'M SO...
...
Eek...
HM?
AH!!
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
What does he mean, I'll be back?
I DON'T KNOW...
MU-CHAN IS A MYSTERY
interes-ting..

BEEP
rumble
OJII-CHAN, FUJIMURA-SAN SAID THAT THEY CAN GET US ABOUT TEN BAGS.
HM... TEN BAGS ...
EVEN TEN BAGS IS SOMETHING TO BE GRATEFUL FOR.
HMM? WHAT'S THAT?
IS THAT SO ...?
NO! WE'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN GIVE US!
YES. GOOD-BYE!
MU-CHAN!
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU RAN OFF SO SUDDENLY YESTER-DAY...
AH...
ta-dah
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
I BROUGHT YOU RICE!!

PROUDLY...
THIS IS MY JII-CHAN'S FAMOUS
UONUMASAN KOSHIHIKARI RICE!!
flap
flap
WOW, THIS IS AMAZING! WHAT IS THIS!?
THE TRUTH IS, MY GRANDPARENTS ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE ARE RICE FARMERS WHEN I ASKED THEM, THEY GATHERED IT FROM ALL OVER!
THIS IS JUST WHAT I COULD TAKE IN ONE TRIP, BUT THERE'S MORE!
THAT'S AMAZING!
Mm...
Osii-chan, you tell him
...
HUH?
...HUH?
KOSHIHIKARI, GROWN IN UONUMA?
...THE RICE USED FOR SAKE AND THE RICE WE EAT ARE DIFFERENT.
HUH?
scratch
.....

OUR SAKE IS MADE FROM 100% YAMADA NISHIKI RICE.

YAMADA NISHIKI ...?

I've heard of that...

SAKE RICE ...?

WHICH MEANS

slide

YOU CAN'T MAKE SAKE WITH NORMAL KOSHIHIKARI RICE.

HUH?

You're a brave one, big brother!

I DID ALL OF THAT FOR NOTHING ...?

I GUESS SO

HA HA HA!

Don't worry about it...

HA...

BUA HA HA HA HA...

HA HA HA...

HA...

ARGH! I'M AN IDIOT! I'M SO EMBARRASSED ...!!

MU-MU-CHAN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! WE'RE HAPPY THAT YOU THOUGHT OF US THANK YOU!!

Gah!!

I HATE MYSELF!

WAH ...

I fall at first! Wahh!

Ojii-chan's laughing...
HAHAHA... KOSHI-HIKARI! THAT'S CLASSIC!
☆Pat
☆Pat
Hahaha!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT SAKE!
I'M SO— RRY
—?
I THINK I HAVE THE SOLU-TION FOR YOUR RICE PROBLEM!
REAL-LY?
YEAH! IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S SOME LEFTOVER RICE FROM A BREWERY THAT WENT OUT OF BUSINESS THIS SPRING THAT WAS GOING TO BE SOLD WHOLE-SALE
GOOD!
KURA-MOTO!
AH, WAKA-TAKE!
That's great.
Yay!
HARU-NA!
YES?
THIS YEAR WE'LL TRY MAKING YOUR SAKE
HUH ..?
WELL, IT'S NOT ALL YAMADA NISHIKI THOUGH...
A PER-CENTAGE IS A DIF-FERENT SAKE RICE
THAT'S FINE

WE CAN'T GET OUR USUAL RICE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, WE CAN GIVE IT A TRY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU MESS UP.
TRY MAKING YOUR SAKE.
Y... YES, SIR!
I'LL DO MY BEST!!
THAT'S GREAT, HARUNA-CHAN!
THE SAKE THAT HARUNA MAKES,
THE OTHER HARU-NA
HUH?
AS MUCH AS YOU WANT.
CAN SELL.
AS THANKS FOR ALL YOUR TROU-BLE.
IT WON'T BE THE USUAL SAKE, BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE GREAT!
After all, it'll be our sake.
WAY TO GO, MU-CHAN!!
Kya! Kya! CLAP
Yay!

HEY, MU-CHAN, THIS KOSHI-HIKARI
KEEP IT IF YOU WANT
Kya!
Kya!
Fresh rice...
LET'S GIVE IT TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'VE HELPED US.
YAY!
tap
...UM.
I SAID THAT I WOULDN'T COME HERE AGAIN...
HUH?
...THANK YOU. YOU WERE A HUGE HELP.

It's good rice.
It's so pretty.
THAT'S NOT TRUE
JII-CHAN AND HARUNA ARE BOTH REALLY HAPPY
...NO, BUT...
...NO.
I DIDN'T KNOW A THING... I ENDED UP JUST CAUSING TROUBLE...
I'm a business failure... I'm sorry
THE RICE
YOU PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THAT.

BY A CERTAIN DEFINITION, YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING
...HE SMILED!
WELL, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
Heh...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN JII-CHAN LAUGH LIKE THAT.

THAT WAS A JOKE, YOU KNOW?
Ha ha!
HAHA...
IT BETTER BE.
...

Haha!
YOU CAN THANK ME WITH YOUR BODY, NAKAGAWA-SAN...
Or something.
.....
.....

...OK, Y
FOR REAL I HAVE A REQUEST
I WANT YOU TO MAKE SAKE
WITH HARUNA-CHAN
I WOULD BE THRILLED IF I COULD MANAGE THE SAKE THAT BOTH OF YOU HAVE MADE!
Come on!
AND OF COURSE, I WANT A HUG!
!!
...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT
YOU ..... REALLY DON'T KNOW WHEN TO STOP...

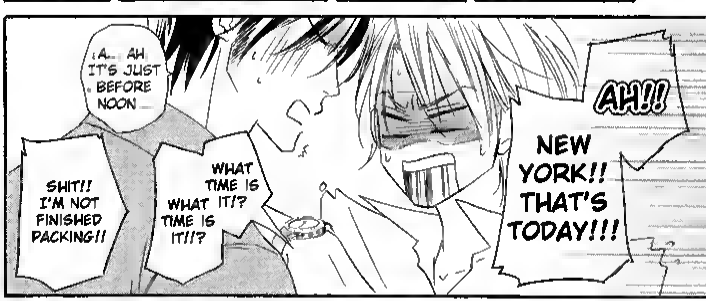
Yay!
THUD
!!
♡
Hah
.....
COME ON

Ah...
.....

pat
pat
THIS IS THE BEST FAREWELL PRESENT.
NO, THIS IS A LUXURY!
...IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH WITH YOU.
MM... I'M SO HAPPY!

?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT MOUTH!?
WELL, IF LUCK IS ON MY SIDE.
IF LUCK IS ON YOUR SIDE, WHAT!?
A KISS? OR SOMETHING?
Haha!
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY
HA HA
grab

Grab
Damn it...
BUT
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH GET GOING
YOU HAVE WORK TODAY, DON'T YOU?
MMM
BUT
DON'T MAKE NOISES LIKE THAT
MM


AH!!
NEW YORK!! THAT'S TODAY!!!
WHAT TIME IS IT!? WHAT TIME IS IT!!?
A... AH. IT'S JUST BEFORE NOON
SHIT!! I'M NOT FINISHED PACKING!!

TO START OUT WITH, SUPER EXPRESS SERVICE TO MY HOUSE!!
My pass-port!
YEAH, YEAH
scratch scratch
..CALM DOWN..
I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE, SO HOLD ON A MINUTE ...
REALLY!? THAT'S GREAT!!

Gah!!
...
turn
turn
AH, WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
HUH!?
HUH? HOW DID I EVEN GET HERE!?
turn
turn
!!

AH...
ALSO!
WHAT, IS THERE SOME-THING ELSE?
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME. DO IT LATER...
IS IT
OKAY IF I COME BACK TO JAPAN?
IF I TAKE CHARGE OF WAKA-TAKE AGAIN?
WHO CARES?
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT

I HAD TO GIVE HIM A RIDE
WHAT! BUT HE MIGHT NEVER COME BACK, RIGHT?
WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY GOOD-BYE... IT'S TOO BAD. RIGHT, OJII-CHAN?
MM.
WHAT!?
MU-CHAN LEFT!?
WHAT!? TODAY WAS HIS LAST DAY IN JAPAN !?
I'M SURE THAT HE'LL BE BACK SOON
REAL-LY?
WHO CARES?
COME ON.
Help us move the rice
BUT IF HE'S COMING BACK, THEN I'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO CREATE DELICIOUS SAKE!
HE COULDN'T EVEN DRINK IT
THAT'S NOT THE POINT
MM.
rustle

Hmm. This layout is lacking something.
I'M BACK!
GOOD WORK!
HEY, EVERY-ONE. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!
Rumble Rumble
rise
HARU-NA!
I'M BACK.
You cut your hair!!
HARUNA-KUN, WELCOME BACK!
WHEN DID YOU GET TO JAPAN? YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE UNTIL NEXT WEEK...
YEAH. I JUST GOT BACK. I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST POP IN FOR A MINUTE
COMING BACK AFTER A YEAR AWAY REALLY DOES FEEL STRANGE.
This is for every-one to share
BUT EVERYONE IS THE SAME.
IT'S ALL THE SAME PEOPLE, EVEN
Thank you!
TH, IT'S TRUE.
beep beep
HM? WHO'S THAT?

HM? AH, THE HANDSOME ONE! WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE CHANGED JOBS?
IT'S A DIFFERENT PERSON!? WHAT ABOUT NAKA— THE USUAL PERSON!?
OH...
OH, THAT'S THE CONTRACTED SYSTEM ENGINEER
A NEW HIRE?
UM...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS ABOUT, BUT HE RAN OUT
I made tea and every thing-
HUH?
WHERE'S HARUNA-KUN?
"NAKAGAWA...YOU SAY?"
HE'S ALWAYS HURRYING SOMEWHERE!
Mm...
NOTHING'S CHANGED

"LAST YEAR NAKAGAWA LEFT THE COMPANY "
"I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE DETAILS "
"I HEARD HE WAS GOING TO HELP OUT WITH THE FAMILY BUSINESS OR SOMETHING "
Sigh
Sigh
NOS-TAL-GIC
...I CAME WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT

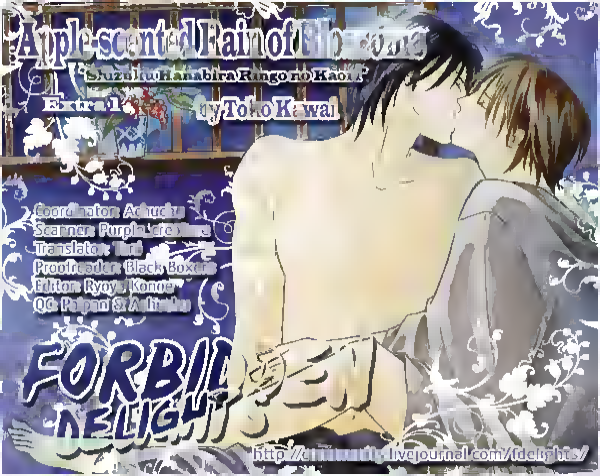
若竹酒
WAKATAKE SAKE

Apple-scented Rain of Blossoms

Shizuku Hanabira Ringo no Kaori

Extra

by Toko Kawai



Coordinator: Achuchu
Scanner: Purple Grey
Translator: Yuri
Proofreader: Black Boxers
Editor: Ryoyi Konoe
QC: Paipan Sx Ashinaka

FORBIDDEN DELIGHTS

http://[illegible].livejournal.com/fdelights/

雫 花びら 林檎の香り

雫花びら 林檎の香り

春花びら林檎の香り

Haru wa Akebono.

In English, that means, "It is dawn in spring."

Anyway,
what is the definition of "going out"?
If you've done some sexy kissing, doesn't that qualify?
Well, that's what I've always thought
GOOD AFTERNOON—

雫花びら林檎の香り

雫花びら 番外編 EXTRA COLLECTION PART 1

APPLE-SCENTED RAIN OF BLOSSOMS

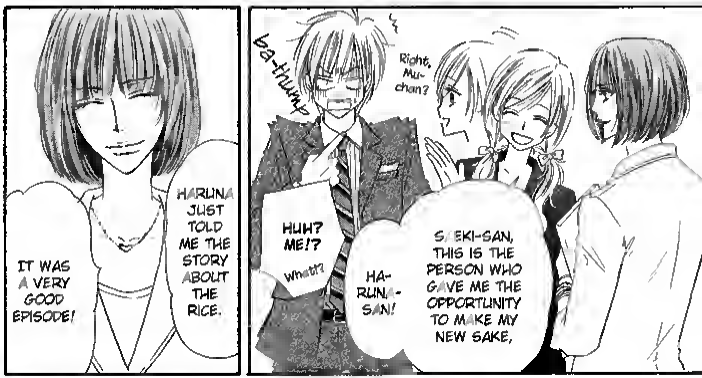
AFTER YOU LEFT YESTERDAY, ANOTHER PERSON CAME BY.
HE WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT YOU'RE COMING BY EVERYDAY.
.....
...HAHA.
Hah.
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN?
YOU CAME YESTERDAY, TOO. WHY DO YOU COME HERE EVERYDAY?
You don't have a purpose.
DAILY GREETINGS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF GOOD BUSINESS!
I don't need one!
FOUND-ATION, HUH?

...HEY.
I CAN HEAR YOU. YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS IN YOUR HEAD.
HUH!!?
No way. I was thinkin' cute stuff!?
MAYBE JUST KISSING ISN'T ENOUGH... IT WAS A PRETTY INTENSE KISS THOUGH...
...AREN'T WE GOING OUT?
DAMN IT THIS IS THE SAME AS BEFORE
HE'S AS DISTANT AS EVER... I CAN'T HELP THAT I WANT TO SEE HIM EVERYDAY
...WELL, IF I'M IN THE AREA, I MIGHT AS WELL STOP BY...

Obviously!!
OR RATHER,
I WANT YOU TO LIKE ME...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME!
scratch scratch
GEEZ ...
JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
YOU ARE SO PERSISTENT
HEY, DOES THAT
Does that..
I JUST SAID THAT I DON'T HATE YOU
DON'T MAKE ME SAY IT AGAIN
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN
I MEAN
HEY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I CAN TAKE THAT THE WAY THAT I WANT TO?
DO WHAT YOU WANT
YEAH. I will...
...HEY.
JUST LITTLE...
WHA...
A LITTLE ...
.....
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME THE GRANARY.
HEY, KNOCK IT...
clank
NO, NO. I'M SORRY THAT THERE'S NOTHING INTERESTING TO SEE.
IF WE WERE STOCKING, IT WOULD BE MORE FUN.
THUD
OW!

I got the impression...
GOOD AFTER-NOON!
OH, IT'S MU-CHAN.
YOU'RE HERE.
OF COURSE!
THEN, COULD I COME AGAIN ONCE IT'S TIME FOR STOCKING?


IT WAS A VERY GOOD EPISODE!
HARUNA JUST TOLD ME THE STORY ABOUT THE RICE.
Ba-thump
Right, Mu-chan?
HUH? ME!?
What!?
HA-RUNA-SAN!
SAEKI-SAN, THIS IS THE PERSON WHO GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MY NEW SAKE,

Those two are so noisy together
It's the lifestyles page of a fashion magazine.
A MAGA-ZINE? THAT'S GREAT!
...WAIT, YOU TOLD HER THAT STORY...?
SAEKI-SAN IS A MAGAZINE WRITER WHO CAME TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT US!
OF COURSE I DID! THE KOSHI-HIKARI LEGEND!
STOP IT, HA-RUHA-CHAN!
JUST FORGET IT!
My flaw!!
NO.
It's funny. I'll keep telling it.

PLEASE! I HAVE TO HAVE A PICTURE OF THIS CUTE BREWER!
I'M SURE SHE'S COME A LONG WAY LET HER TAKE IT, HARUNA-CHAN.
OH? REALLY?
...
HUH? A PIC-TURE!?
I'M NOT EVEN WEARING MAKEUP. I CAN'T.
LIM,
COULD I TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU, HARUNA-SAN? BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHOP.
NO, THANKS
DON'T SAY THAT. HARUNA-SAN WILL BE LONELY BY HERSELF.
LET'S INCLUDE JII-CHAN, TOO
A PICTURE WITH ALL THREE OF YOU WOULD BE PERFECT.
ALSO,
SMILE
I'D LOVE A PICTURE OF YOUR BROTHER.

ONII-CHAN!
...
COME ON, ONII-CHAN. THINK OF IT AS A SALES PROMOTION AND GET OJII-CHAN OVER HERE.
OH, DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, SAEKI-SAN!
A BROTHER AND SISTER WITH THEIR OJII-SAMA, PROTECTING THEIR GRANARY I'D LOVE TO CAPTURE SUCH A WONDERFUL IMAGE!
AND WITH SUCH ATTRACTIVE SIBLINGS, IT'LL BE SURE TO BECOME A MAIN TOPIC.
No, no. You saw what he's like. I'm sure he doesn't even have a girlfriend.
Your brother is very attractive! Is he married?
How should I say this?
As a man in love,
turn
OJII-CHAN IS IN THE STOREHOUSE.
FINE.
Shut.
click

I don't like this...
rustle
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO IT?
JUST DO IT...
THAT'S RUDE!
KO-CHAN, YOU'RE VULGAR..
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THAT WOMAN, DO IT ALREADY. I'M TELLING YOU TO CREATE AN ESTABLISHED PRESENCE!
SAKE MADE BY A CRAFTSMAN AND THEN TWO GRAY HAIRS...
Mm...
I MEAN, THIS ARTICLE
DON'T YOU THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF PICTURES OF HIM?
IT CALLS HIM "THE SUPER-HANDSOME, COOL BREWER."
JUST WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THIS ARTICLE?
chew chew
"SAKE FOR A WOMAN'S TASTE." WHO ARE THEY KIDDING?
Ha
I THINK THEY'RE TASTING SOMETHING ELSE
Right?
KO-CHAN, SHUT UP...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MUTSUKI-CHAN WHO WOULD KEEP GOING EVEN IF HE'S BROKEN!?
ARGH, YOU'RE SO SLOW!
MMPH ...
I BROKE TOO MUCH AND FEEL LIKE MY HEART'S GOING TO GET BROKEN, TOO...
If you keep eating when you're upset, you'll get fat!
thud
...YEAH, BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING IRRITATED ABOUT?
THIS IS WHY IF YOUR PARTNER HAS A PULSE, YOU SHOULD PUSH HIM DOWN AND DO IT.
Even if you say that,
... -
IF HE GETS TAKEN BY A WOMAN BECAUSE YOU WASTE TOO MUCH TIME, IT'LL BE YOUR OWN FAULT, YOU KNOW?
I don't know what to do when faced with this man...

ARE WE DATING!? WE'RE DATING, RIGHT!?
What a pain.
!!
I don't even get a sarcastic comment!?
HARUNA-CHAN TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE IN THE STORE-HOUSE...
H... HELLO!
SHE ALWAYS SENDS THE ANNOYING STUFF MY WAY...
Shrt.
What?
SIXTY PER YEAR? IMPOSSIBLE. WE CAN'T PRODUCE THAT MUCH. IT'D BE ABOUT TWENTY
HARUNA'S IN THE SHOP, RIGHT? TALK TO HER ABOUT IT
Well, it's always for work.
TODAY, I'M REALLY HERE FOR WORK
This is the written proposal.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SENDING YOUR SAKE TO OUR NEW YORK BRANCH
HARUNA-CHAN SAID IT WAS FINE BY HER. SHE JUST WANTED YOU TO DECIDE HOW MUCH
BEEP BEEP
TWENTY-FIVE A YEAR...? MM, NO, IT WON'T WORK FORTY!!
THIRTY-SIX!
THIRTY-NINE!
WHY ARE YOU INCREASING IT?
NOW, LOOK →
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED TWENTY-FIVE
WHAT'S WITH THAT STRANGE NUMBER?
Hey... I'm calculating, so be quiet!
scratch scratch
Author
NOT POSSIBLE
WHAT!? TWENTY PER YEAR!?
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! AT LEAST GIVE US FORTY...
YOU'VE ONLY DECREASED IT BY ONE
THEN, THIRTY... NINE!

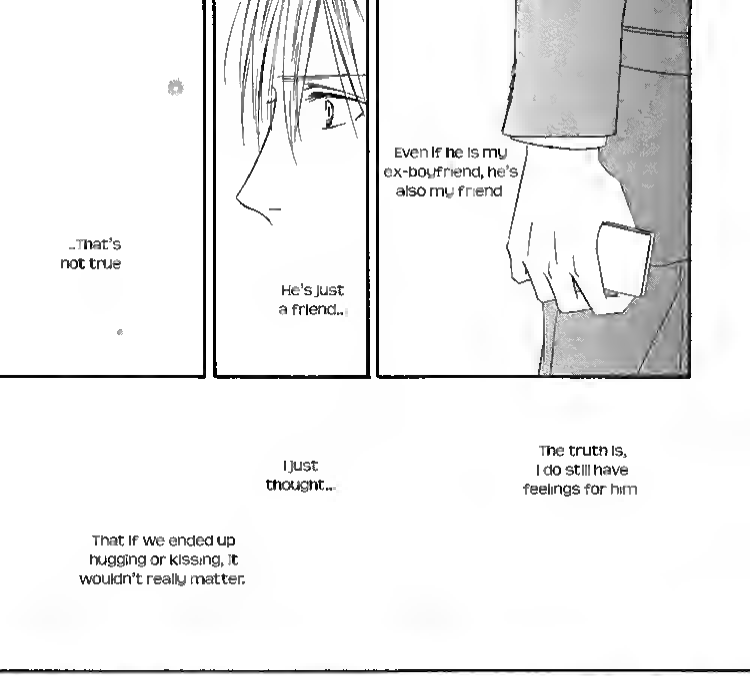
Using tears to get his way.
If it's less than forty, there will be trouble! For me!! Seriously...
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU TO RECONSIDER...!
I KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT...
Do something!
.....
Geez.
FINE.
THIS ISN'T DEFINITE THOUGH
I'LL DO MY BEST, BUT THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES
YAY.
OKAY!
THEN, TOMORROW I'LL SEND YOU DOCUMENTS WITH THE AMOUNT OF FORTY
DON'T BOTHER. IT'S A PAIN
NO, BUT... I can't do that
IT'S FINE.
JUST WRITE WHATEVER NUMBER YOU WANT
I'LL MAKE IT WORK.
TH...

...HEY, YOU'RE DOING THIS AGAIN ..?
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES US?
YEAH, I KNOW...
I KNOW, BUT JUST A LITTLE...
STOP
HEY
NOW WHAT? I'M NOT GIVING IN ANY MORE...
... .
SO, ON YOUR NEXT DAY OFF, COME TO MY..
...I DON'T WANT THIS AMBIGUITY
I WANT TO KNOW YOUR FEELINGS
SLAP

Jess? What do you want?
whisper whisper
Mutsuki? That's the first thing that you say to me? You're so cold. How've you been?
Good. Really, what's up? It's still before dawn there, isn't it?
Mm?
JESS? WHY?
UM... SORRY, IT'S A FRIEND FROM AMERICA...
BEEP
ring
ring
ring
ARGH... SORRY.
WHAT HORRIBLE TIMING...
I really want to see you. You returned to Japan so suddenly I've been lonely
Yeah...
glance
MAN, SHOULD I BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION HERE?
No actually I'm traveling I'm currently in Hong Kong So I was thinking I'd go see you
For two or three days
You don't want to see me you just want a free bed
Don't say things like that
Huh? Why are you being so guarded? It's not like you
When did you want to stay with me? Um.
WHATEVER IT IS IN ENGLISH

A guy you like? Is he really petty enough to care if you hang out with your exes?
There's someone I like right now.
I don't want him to find out that my ex-boyfriend is staying with me and misunderstand..
That's not...
.....
BEEP
Well is he falling for you?
:) Hahaha!
Shut up!
Anyway I'll call you again later
I'm with someone right now
Ah-ha. So you're with him right now
I see. I see.
I WASN'T DONE TALKING TO YOU...!
NA... NAKAGAWA-SAN!?
Up there!?
HUH!!?
UM, I'M SORRY...
THAT WAS A FRIEND

HUH?
... HUH?
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO RUIN YOUR FRIENDSHIP ON MY ACCOUNT.
HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A PLACE TO STAY, SINCE HE'S GOING TO BE IN JAPAN?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE BUSINESS, DON'T COME HERE TOMORROW.
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FREE TIME TO PLAY WITH YOU EVERYDAY.
YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH!?
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
.....!
Why is this happening!?


..That's not true
He's just a friend..
Even if he is my ex-boyfriend, he's also my friend
I just thought...
The truth is, I do still have feelings for him
That if we ended up hugging or kissing, it wouldn't really matter.

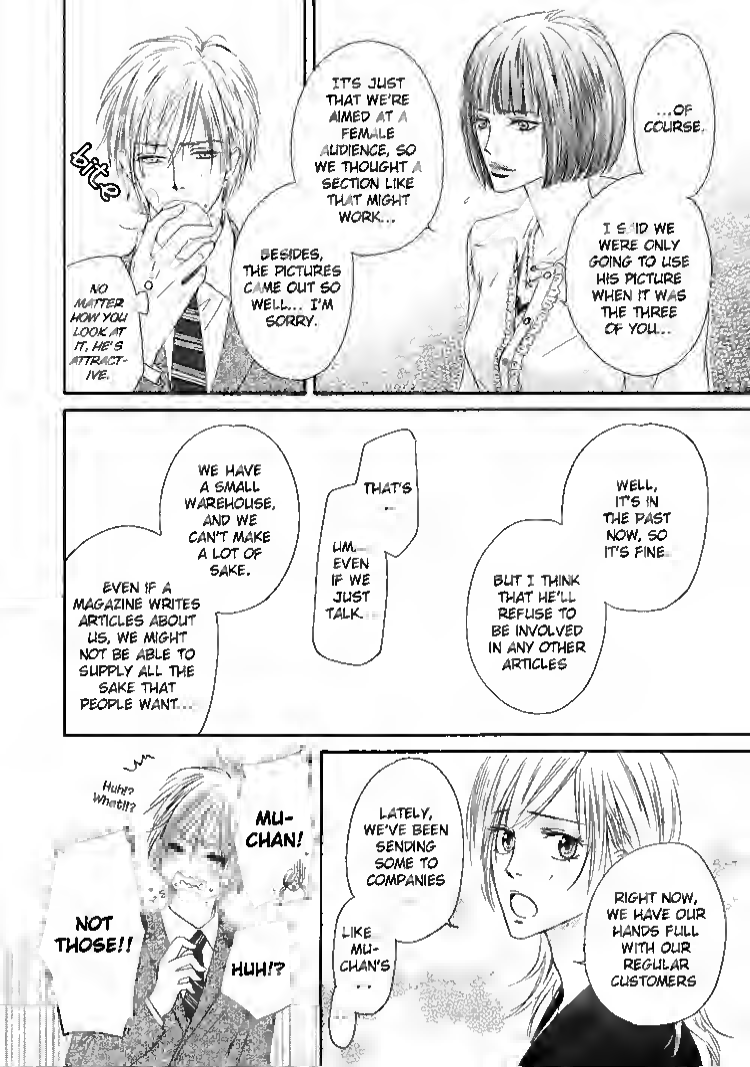
YEAH...
THAT'S GREAT! YOU'RE AMAZING!
..MM
I HEARD THAT YOU GOT ANOTHER SIXTY BOTTLES FROM WAKATAKE?
OH, HARU-NA

Your mood swings are insane.
A LITTLE BIT...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING BACK ON MY LIFE AND GETTING DEPRESSED...
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU DEPRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING?
NOT LIKE THAT...
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I COME OFF AS TOO CASUAL.
YOUR LIFE? WHY ARE YOU... WEREN'T THINGS GOING PRETTY WELL?
This is that data. The rest is up to you!
Yeah, thanks.
MAYBE, BUT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE THAT ARE TOO JEALOUS TO DEAL WITH THAT KIND OF THING
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
OH. . WHO KNOWS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY WAS SAID,
BUT THERE ARE SOME TIMES WHEN YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO FREE.
FREE? I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE...
But dating seriously
is what I want to do.
.....
pat pat
YOU'RE JUST NOT COMPATIBLE WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT, SO IT'S BETTER IF YOU JUST DON'T DATE SERIOUSLY.
Don't worry about it. I like what about you.

GOOD AFTER-NOON.
WEL-COME
I BROUGHT THE CONTRACT ALONG WITH ME TODAY. I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK IT OVER.
AH, FOR THE NEW YORK BRANCH
YES
IT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU MANAGED TO GET SIXTY BOTTLES OUT OF MY BROTHER.
We don't make a lot of that brand.
Haha
I FORCED HIM INTO SAYING SIXTY.
I THOUGHT THAT THIRTY BOTTLES WOULD BE THE BEST YOU WOULD GET
I WAS AFRAID I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SAY NO TO YOU, SO I PASSED IT ON TO MY BROTHER.
BUT LOOKS LIKE HE HAD THE SAME PROBLEM
YOU'RE SPECIAL, MU-CHAN!
HEY, MU-CHAN. I STEAMED SOME MANJUU. DO YOU WANT SOME?
AHAHA. IT'S FINE.
I MADE SOME THAT EVEN CHILDREN CAN EAT, SO YOU SHOULD TRY THEM.
AS LONG AS THEY'RE NOT SAKA-MANJUU.

WE HAVE ANOTHER GUEST AT THE MOMENT,
BUT YOU'VE ALREADY MET, SO IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?
HUH?
bow
...Oh.
GOOD AFTER-NOON.
Sorry to interrupt.
UM, IT WAS SAEKI-SAN, RIGHT? THE WRITER
DID YOU SEE THE MAGAZINE?
YES, I READ IT.
WHAT DID YOU THINK? I DID WRITE A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.
OH . YES. I WAS TEASED BY EVERYONE.
I'M SORRY. IT WAS JUST SUCH AN AMAZING EPISODE.
THAT ARTICLE WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR, SO I WAS HOPING I MIGHT GET SOME NEW MATERIAL!!
...I SEE.

WOW, THEY LOOK DELI-CIOUS. ♡
THANK YOU
THE ONES WITH THE MARK ARE FOR CHILDREN
Without are for adults!
GO AHEAD
THANK YOU.
Steam
Steam
HERE WE ARE... SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
ENJOY MY STEAMED SAKAMAN!
Glare
WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER, SHUUSAKU-SAN, TODAY?
SHE'S USING HIS FIRST NAME
LIM, HARUNA-SAN.
HM?
THEY'RE REALLY HOT, SO BE CAREFUL.
LIM... COULD IT BE THAT HE'S ANGRY ABOUT THE ARTICLE...?
Hahaha.
EXTREMELY
click
OH... LIM, THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIT DIFFICULT.
Go ahead.
I WAS HOPING TO ASK SHUUSAKU-SAN SOME QUESTIONS FOR MY FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE...
MY BROTHER IS INSIDE...


...OF COURSE.
I SAID WE WERE ONLY GOING TO USE HIS PICTURE WHEN IT WAS THE THREE OF YOU...
IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE AIMED AT A FEMALE AUDIENCE, SO WE THOUGHT A SECTION LIKE THAT MIGHT WORK...
BESIDES, THE PICTURES CAME OUT SO WELL... I'M SORRY.
bite
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, HE'S ATTRACTIVE.
WELL, IT'S IN THE PAST NOW, SO IT'S FINE.
BUT I THINK THAT HE'LL REFUSE TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY OTHER ARTICLES
THAT'S...
UM... EVEN IF WE JUST TALK...
WE HAVE A SMALL WAREHOUSE, AND WE CAN'T MAKE A LOT OF SAKE.
EVEN IF A MAGAZINE WRITES ARTICLES ABOUT US, WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL THE SAKE THAT PEOPLE WANT...
RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL WITH OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS
LATELY, WE'VE BEEN SENDING SOME TO COMPANIES
LIKE MU-CHAN'S...
Huh!? What!?
MU-CHAN!
NOT THOSE!!
HUH!?

Huhh!?
Mark!? Huh?
!!
MY GOOD-NESS! IT'S ALMOST GONE!?
THOSE ARE THE ADULT SAKA-MANJUU!
I TOLD YOU THAT THE ONES FOR CHILDREN HAD A MARK!!!
I ate it
ONII-CHAN!!
MU-CHAN ATE THE NORMAL SAKAMAN!!
What should we do!?
rustle
WHAT IS IT? SHUT UP ALREADY
I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME!
glare
NO, HA-RUNA-CHAN
IT WON'T BE ALL RIGHT!
I POWERED THEM UP SINCE THE LAST TIME!!
I increased the amount of sake lees I put in!!
Last time I ate two.
IF IT'S JUST THIS, I MIGHT BE ALRIGHT MAYBE.
ONII-CHAN!!
What... Powered up?
No, I just can't drink alcohol
Um... Is some-thing wrong?

UM.
I.
Hah
GEEZ
YOU'RE ALWAYS THE SOURCE OF THE COMMOTION
UM,
THE OTHER DAY...
Cover
SHUT UP, YOU DRUNK
WHOA.
THE OTHER DAY, I...
!!!
IS HE DRUNK ALREADY?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN EXPERIMENTING ON HIM, HAVE YOU?
sling
HUNGE
Baky

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
U... UM!
SHUU-SAKU-SAN!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN, SO...
!!
...
Shit.
waver
Don't tell me you can't walk.
waver
W... wait! My head... my head is shrinking...!!
I'M GOING TO LET HIM SLEEP IT OFF.
HARUNA, CONTACT HIS COMPANY.
OKAY.
Mu-chan...
dejected
...IT SEEMS
THAT HE'S VERY ANGRY INDEED ...
HE'S ANGRY, BUT MY BROTHER IS ALSO USUALLY LIKE THAT
Don't worry too much about it.
SO, I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS HOW IT IS I DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET ANY MORE MATERIAL FROM US . .?
YOU'RE RIGHT

IT'S FINE. I'M USED TO IT.
HERE. YOU SHOULD DRINK SOME WATER BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP.
I'M SORRY ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED AGAIN...
rise
OH... YES
UGH...
slump
Ah... I feel like I'm losing to gravity.

YEAH.
THANK YOU.
HERE
grab

...UH...
UM
THAT PHONE CALL...
UM, THERE WASN'T ANY WEIRD MEANING ..
I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO NONSENSE FROM A DRUNK
.....
OKAY.
IS THAT ENOUGH?
YEAH
I'LL LISTEN LATER
ruffle
FOR NOW, GET SOME SLEEP
YEAH

sigh
I wonder what time it is. It's dark outside.
Oh, that's right. I did it again...
peek
HM? MU-CHAN?
ARE YOU AWAKE?
squeak
CREAK
CREAK
patter
I DISGRACED MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE PERSON I LIKE AGAIN.
sniffle
patter
I'M SO LAME.
WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY LIFE?

I'M SORRY THAT YOU'VE ENDED UP LIKE THIS AGAIN FROM MY SAKAMAN.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WELL, THAT'S TRUE...
I told you to eat the ones with the mark.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT FOR SPACING OUT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET UP. STAY LAYING DOWN.
I'M FINE NOW
HAHA, YEAH.
I CONTACTED YOUR COMPANY, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY
AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED TO SPEND TONIGHT HERE?
TOMORROW'S SATURDAY, SO YOU SHOULD BE OFF, RIGHT?
OH... YEAH, BUT THAT'S...
I'd be in the way...
I MADE A LIGHT DINNER.
WARM IT UP AND EAT. I'LL TELL MY BROTHER, TOO.
HUH?
ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE, HARUNA-CHAN?
Now that you mention it, you look different from usual. Your hair looks cute like that

Hun?
Which means...
...Oh. Be careful
I'll be back tomorrow night.
I'm going to observe some acquaintance's granaries and stuff!
Well, it's actually just a tour of sake granaries!
Yeah.
I'm going on a little trip with a friend!
Nakagawa Kagami's Sake Tour
Tadaa!
Oh, by the way.
that it'll just be me, Nakagawa-san, and Kuramata!?
Whoa!
I see.
Kuramata won't be here
He already left with a barrel of sake
He's having a drinking competition until dawn with our neighbor, Yamamoto-san
It's amazing!
Oji-chan won't be here either, so feel free to relax!

I'll buy you a souvenir!
See you!
WELL, IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BE GOING.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, LET MY BROTHER KNOW.
What?
Huh?
THERE'LL BE NO ONE AROUND TO WORRY ABOUT,
SO MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
.....
OH, ONII-CHAN.
I'M OFF
CREAK
I KNOW.
TAKE CARE OF MU-CHAN
MAKE SURE THAT YOU EAT.
This means...
I'm more worried about Mu-chan than you!
Which means?
WAKATAKE FAMILY
HERE.
NOT HERE.
See you!
Time to drink. ☆

YOU'RE AWAKE THEN,
DRUNK?
I'm alone
with this man...?

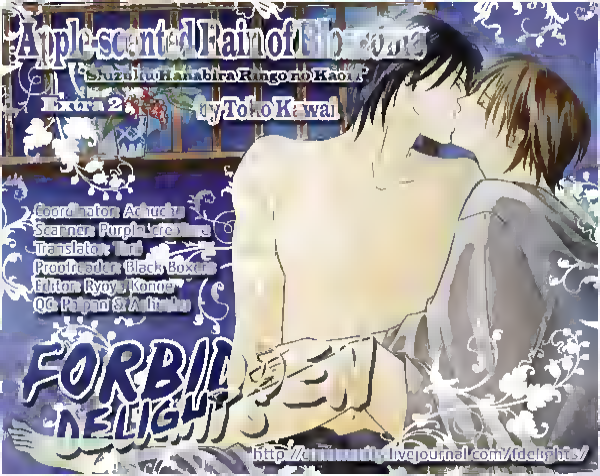
Just two of us...
for a whole night?
Could it be...
a golden opportunity?!

Apple-scented Rain of Happiness

Shizuku wa Ringo no Kaori

Extra 2

by Toko Kawai



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Translator: Yuri
Proofreader: Black Boxers
Editor: Ryoyi Konoe
QC: Paipan Sa Ashinaka

FORBIDDEN DELIGHTS

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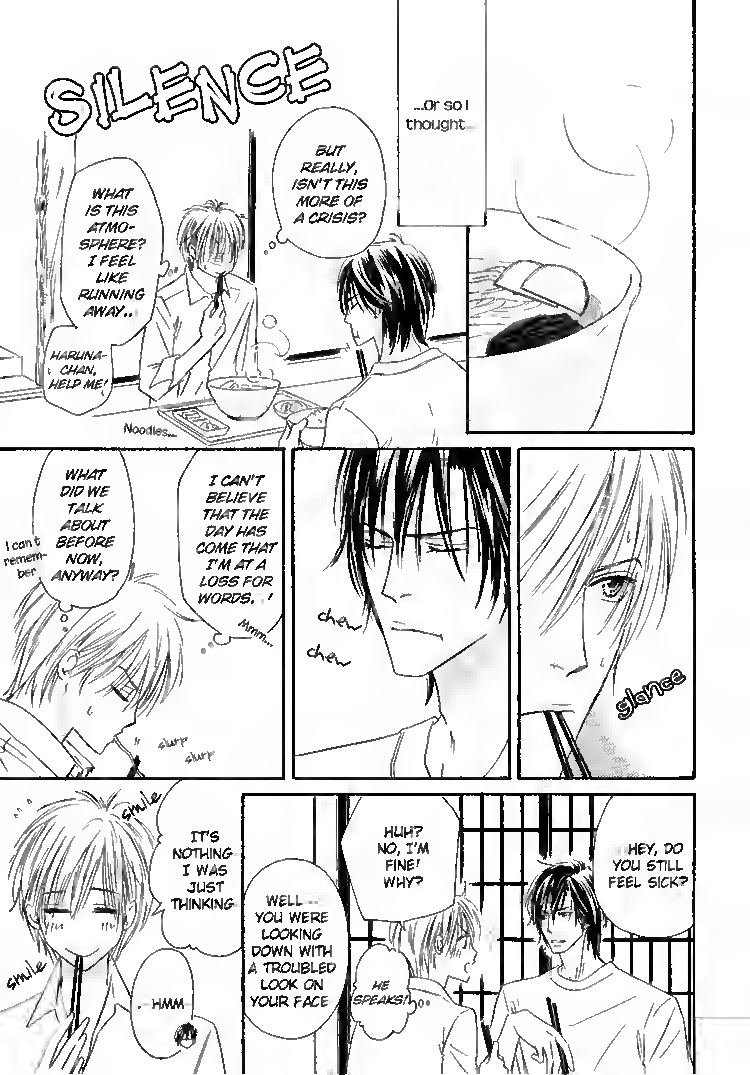
APPLE-SCENTED RAIN OF BLOSSOMS
EXTRA COLLECTION PART 2

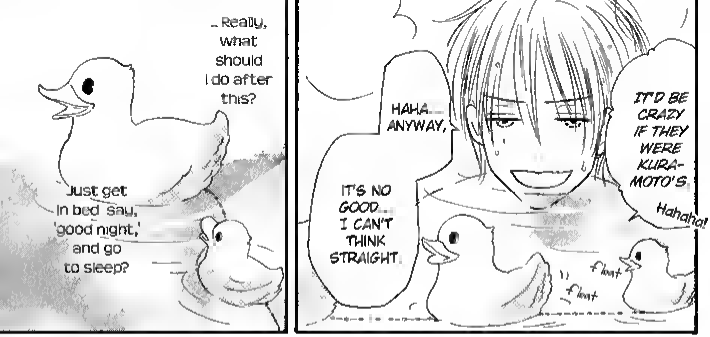
雫 花びら 林檎の香り


SILENCE
...or so I thought...
BUT REALLY, ISN'T THIS MORE OF A CRISIS?
WHAT IS THIS ATMOSPHERE? I FEEL LIKE RUNNING AWAY..
HARUNA-CHAN, HELP ME!
Noodles...
WHAT DID WE TALK ABOUT BEFORE NOW, ANYWAY?
I can't remember
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE DAY HAS COME THAT I'M AT A LOSS FOR WORDS. !
Mmm...
slurp slurp
chew chew
silence
HEY, DO YOU STILL FEEL SICK?
HUH? NO, I'M FINE! WHY?
HE SPEAKS!
WELL ... YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN WITH A TROUBLED LOOK ON YOUR FACE
IT'S NOTHING I WAS JUST THINKING
HMM
smile
smile

Once again...
SILENCE
smile
smile
smile
...UM,
pause
IF I'M A BOTHER, I COULD GO HOME...?
.....
...HUH?
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO RELAX AND HAVE SOME TIME TO YOURSELF
I THOUGHT MY PRESENCE MIGHT BE A BOTHER.
...WELL, I MEAN,
Haha... I'm being unusually timid.
I wonder what's wrong with me If any of my old boyfriends saw me, they'd die laughing.
LOOK, YOU
WHY DON'T YOU TRY SHOWING THAT CONSIDERATION AT A BETTER TIME?
!!

gape
!!
A BOTHER!?
A bother a bother ...ther ...er
?
A...
THAT WOULD BE MORE OF A BOTHER.
BESIDES, I'D BE THE ONE TAKING YOU HOME, ANYWAY...
pat
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T STILL FEEL SICK?
HEY,
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'M A BOTHER
rattle
WELL?
get scared some-times...
Even I

IT'S FINE, SO DON'T BE SO TENSE
EAT, BEFORE IT GETS COLD
YEAH
. HMM IF YOU SAY SO
I TOLD YOU, I'M FINE!
IT'S NO-THING.
steam
BUT, MAN. THIS IS AMAZING. THIS BATH IS MADE FROM CYPRESS
IT FEELS SO JAPANESE. JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT OF A SAKE GRANARY.
splash
AH, BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER THIS ..?
AND ARE THESE DUCKS HARUNA-CHAN'S?
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO BE IN THIS BATH?
EVEN IF I'M BEING COWARD-LY...
They were just layi
there, so I put them in.
They're cute. I want some.


...Really, what should I do after this?
Just get in bed, say, 'good night,' and go to sleep?
HAHA... ANYWAY,
IT'S NO GOOD... I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.
IT'D BE CRAZY IF THEY WERE KURA-MOTO'S.
Hahaha!
float
float

Just going to sleep without doing anything

as the man I love.

Alone, under the same roof

splash
ripple
I might be at my limit
I WANT YOU TO LOVE ME...
bubble bubble
sink
In a variety of ways
I DON'T WANT HIM TO BE ANGRY WITH ME ANY-MORE...
...I WANT HIM TO LOVE ME.
pop pop
Isn't in my dictionary at all.
SHOULD I PUSH HIM?
OR SHOULDN'T I? YEAH..., HE MIGHT GET ANGRY.

AM I SUPPOSED TO WEAR THIS? ARE THESE MY PAJAMAS?
HEY!
HUH? HARUNA SET SOMETHING OUT, RIGHT?
HUH? NO, NO, I'M FINE.
Steam
Steam
REALLY.
I'M ACTUALLY REFRESHED!
Thanks for letting me go first! Cypress baths are great.
?
Whatever, whatever
YEAH. THEN IT MUST BE THIS.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO DO THIS, BUT WHATEVER
ARE YOU OKAY?
THE BATH DIDN'T MAKE YOU DRUNK AGAIN, DID...
Swish
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT?
I was paying attention!

To be continued...
WHAT ARE YOU, A CORPSE!?
IT GOES THE OTHER WAY.
HUH? WHAT? IS IT WEIRD?
WEIRD DOESN'T EVEN COVER IT IT'S COMPLETELY WRONG
HUH?
Why did Haruna give you this... It's mine...
More importantly, where do I even start?
.....
LET'S AT LEAST FIX THE COLLAR.
IT GOES THE OTHER WAY THE LEFT IS ON TOP.
HUH? REALLY?
BUT BATHROBES GO LIKE THIS
LIKE I CARE HOW A BATHROBE GOES.
poke
Anyway, this isn't a bathrobe!
AH!
grab
IT'S NOT FINE IT'LL BOTHER ME
GEEZ, YOU'RE HOPELESS TURN THIS WAY.
That's because it's mine.
Isn't it a little long?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE EVER WORN A YUKATA BEFORE.
ANYWAY, THIS IS FINE. JUST THINK OF IT AS A BATHROBE

YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST WORN UNDER-WEAR
YOU'RE BORROWING THAT; YOU SHOULDN'T BE NUDE UNDER IT.
Hah...
rustle...
...

A normal guy wouldn't feel anything from looking at another man naked.
shift
.. That's right
YEAH
SORRY
I WASN'T THINK-ING—
...
TURN AROUND
MMPH
Of course not
IS IT TOO TIGHT?
IT'S FINE

DONE.
DRY YOUR HAIR OFF.
Pat
IF YOU'RE THIRSTY, FEEL FREE TO LOOK THROUGH THE REFRIGERATOR.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING OTHER THAN ALCOHOL IN THERE
...YEAH.
THANKS.
It's not like I was being arrogant.

CREAK
patter
I LOVE COLA
WELL, IT WAS IN THE REFRIGE-RATOR.
But I like it.
...SODA?
You American.
IS IT HARUNA-CHAN'S?
Am I allowed to drink it?
NO, IT'S JI-CHAN'S
Cola
EH.
IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
HM?
TAKE A BATH, THEN DRINK SAKE WHILE YOU RELAX ON THE PORCH
WELL, PRETTY MUCH
IT'S NICE IT FEELS ESSENTIAL TO THE VERY IDEA OF JAPAN
PORCHES ARE GREAT I WANT ONE TOO
Even though I live in an apartment
SODA ON THE PORCH?
IT'S FINE.

... NGH.
.....
HEY,
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE SEX WITH ME?
choke
cough cough
WHY WOULD YOU SUDDENLY ASK THAT...?
drip
IT IS
IT'S NOT SUDDEN.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SAY IT FOR A LONG TIME. BUT YOU ALWAYS ACT SO OBLIVIOUS
THAT'S WHY I JUST SAID IT PLAINLY
.....

...IF
YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH A MAN, OR THAT IT WOULD BE GROSS,
THEN I WANT YOU TO SAY SO.
THEN, I'LL...
LOOK FOR SOME-ONE ELSE?
IF YOU CAN'T HAVE SEX WITH ME, YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ME?
TH...
THAT'S NOT IT!
I'VE REALLY BEEN WORRIED..!
IS IT REALLY THAT STRANGE TO WANT TO DO IT WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE!?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL...?
Scratch
.....
SORRY.

HEY, DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.
I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET.
...I SEE. IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT, GUYS ARE...
...TO BE HONEST,
I DON'T KNOW.
THERE'S DEFINITELY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT I CAN DO IT.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
scratch
.....
NOT SURE? WHY?
OF COURSE YOU SHOULD
TO ME...
I'M NOT SURE
WHETHER I SHOULD

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THAT...
THE WAY YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH A GUY, EVEN AFTER YOU BREAK UP,
YOUR FREE PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE,
I'M JUST SAYING THAT I'M DIFFERENT.
I WOULD PROBA-BLY...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M BLAMING YOU
U... UM.
WE'RE FRIENDS? JUST NORMAL...
TIE YOU DOWN.
NO, DEFI-NITELY...

IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE HAS SAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO ME BEFORE
I'M BLUSHING BUT I'M HAPPY...
blush
It's like he's whispering
words of love to me.
I WOULDN'T BUT
NO... I NEVER HAVE BEEN SO I DON'T KNOW...
YOU WOULDN'T LIKE THAT, WOULD YOU?
BEING RESTRAINED...

SO, IF WE DO IT ONCE,
IF I MAKE UP MY MIND, I WON'T LET GO UNTIL THE VERY END
I'M NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN SAY
WE SHOULD JUST TRY IT OUT.
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR ESCAPE PATH.

I'M REALLY
A TIRESOME MAN.
...YEAH.
I KNOW.
I KNEW THAT FROM THE VERY FIRST TIME WE MET.
THAT'S WHAT I LIKED ABOUT YOU.
.....

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU REALLY NEVER LOSE HOPE.
...NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE
I'VE BEEN...
ON THE VERGE OF LOSING HOPE FOR A LONG TIME NOW, BUT
I LOVE YOU...
I REALLY AM A PAIN.
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU REGRET THIS
I KNOW THAT

NO... I MEAN,
IS WHAT?
...UM,
IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
I'M DEFINITELY AN ADULT MAN.
shake
shake
shake
I'VE NEVER DONE IT WITH A MAN BEFORE. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
TH... THAT'S TRUE, BUT
IF WE GET TO THE END AND YOU SAY, "IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!"...
How do I deal with that kind of shock...
OH, THAT...
...CAN YOU DO IT?
rustle
WHAT! REALLY!!?
WE WON'T KNOW UNLESS WE TRY

thud
AH...
grab
THEN, YOU WANT TO STOP?
I... I'LL DO IT.
THEN COME HERE
startle
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET. WHY WOULD I BE?
I'm not a middle schooler
... YOU'RE NOT TURNED ON.

NGH...!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE TURNED ON? EVEN THOUGH WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING?
AH...
...IS IT GROSS?
NO, NOT REALLY
NN...
NGH.
AH
TUMBLE

Getting excited all by myself...
NGH
UN
Hah
I'm such an idiot.
Hah
This feels really good.
What should I do?
AH...
AH
..what should I do?
shake
UHN...
What should I do?
AH...
I hate myself
...HEY.

NGH...
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
WHAT'S WRONG?
What a dirty face.
U-
UHN!
YOU REALLY
NEED TO FIX YOUR HABIT OF LETTING YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU.
scrub
sob
WH... WHAT DO I DO IF YOU SAY
THAT YOU CAN'T DO IT
sob
I... MIGHT NEVER RECO-VER...
hic hic

NGH...
grab
FEEL BETTER?
Y—
YEAH.
AH...
AH...
NN...
YEAH...

AAH...
AH...
NN...
I... IF YOU LOOK AT THAT PLACE, YOU MIGHT GET TURNED OFF.
I'M NOT GOING TO BE TURNED OFF
BUT...
...
THAT'S KIND OF AMAZING.
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO...
...NGH.
ENOUGH ALREADY
JUST
SHUT UP
...NGH.

AH...
AH.
..NGH.
shake
AH...
UN...
tweet
tweet
tweet

this
It's the real thing...
touch
isn't a dream, is it?
Pi♪
JE...
ss
AH...
Pirururu
BEEP
HELLO
whisper
HUH?
HUH?
whisper
You'll wake him!
Shh!
Shh!
jump
Pirururu
THAT SOUND
IT'S MY CELL PHONE
Pirururu
EH WHERE IS IT!?
THERE IT IS!
Pirururu
zzz
.....
yahoo
IS HE STILL SLEEPING!?
Walkin'

droop
Right now? Yeah... No
Um. Jess.
I'm sorry, but I can't do that kind of thing anymore...
...because...
whisper
What!? You're already in Japan!?
I can't on such short notice!
No, it's impossible
Eek!!
HANG UP
HUH!?
!!!
I SAID, HANG UP.
.....
OH— YEAH
HUH...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. I'M TELLING YOU TO HANG UP ON ALL OF YOUR OLD BOY-FRIENDS
So... Sorry...
snatch
As usual, you can't read the atmosphere at all.
BEEP
HUH? I AL-READY... DID?
HANG UP.
slam

lick
OW...!
OW...
I TOLD YOU
I'M A TIRESOME GUY
bite
NN...
Ooh..
MM.
This might be good,
this whole being tied down thing...
DO YOU LIKE IT?
MY BODY.
NN...
AH...
HA-HA.
nuzzle

grope grope
MAYBE...
WELL,
IT'S NOT BAD...
SAY THAT YOU LIKE ME
HEH...
WHAT IS THAT
THUD
OR RATHER,
ME!
I FOR-GOT.
HEY, GET SOME CLOTHES ON.
CLOTHES? CLOTHES? WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
KURA-MOTO!
JII-CHAN!
flinch
Did he call?
What was that sound?
rattle rattle rattle
WHOOPS!?
crash
bang
rattle rattle
bang
HEEEEY, I'M BAAACK
Ahh!

Eek!
ALL I HAVE IS THE YUKATA..!
It's all dirty
THERE SHOULD BE SOME OF MY CLOTHES OVER THERE.
I DON'T CARE WHAT, JUST PUT SOMETHING ON.
JII-CHAN WON'T COME INTO MY ROOM, BUT
JUST GET SOMETHING ON.
Somehow, your back is totally attractive....!!!
sparkle
OOH...
bang
crash
squeal
squeal
Shut up.
Ow! You didn't have to hit me.
rattle
THEY'RE NOISY FOR FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE GETTING ALONG
I'm totally wasted...
Hrrow up
cling
... WHAT HEY, ARE YOU DOING!?
WHATEVER, JUST PUT SOME CLOTHES ON!
This guy is just too much...!!
BUT...
It's the morning after

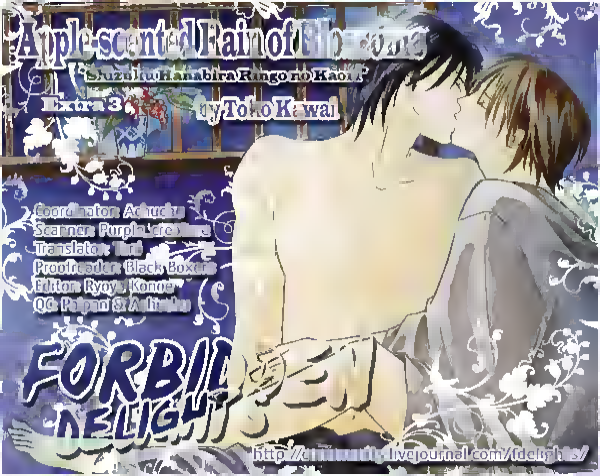
Muah!
Mm...
You're way too persistent...

Apple-scented Rain of Blossoms

"Shizuku Hanabira Ringo no Kaori"

Extra 3

by Toko Kawai



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ずキュン! どキュン! BOYS LOVE総合誌マガジン
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マガジンビーボーイ
MAGAZINE

BE×BOY

表紙／川唯東子

タカツキメボル
伸郷たけこ
九州男児
藤生
天王寺ミオ

ロイヤル特集
とびきり甘い王族の恋♥
佳門サエコ×あすま理彩
蜂田キリー
石田亜
高田ゆうき

カラー
すこしずつ変わり始める
親友との距離
楢崎壮太

カラー
北上れん
草間さかえ
腰乃
寿たらこ
夏目イサク
本庄りえ
三島一彦
南月ゆう
町屋はとこ
×榎田尤利
みささぎ楓李
×Spray

無愛想な男に惚れた
「永遠の片想い」の恋路とは?
川唯東子

石原 理
中村かなこ
野垣スズメ
鮫沢 伐
相音ぎう
水渡ひとみ

大増ページで
お値段すえおき!

Hello, this is Kawai Toko.
Thank you for reading my comic.
How was this vex-vex-vexing love story?
Well, it really was vexing.
I was trying to write about a hot-and-cold
type of guy, but he wouldn't get properly hot,
so I had some trouble advancing the story...
Man, I'm so glad that I managed to pull it off...!
This manga's Japanese alcohol theme
allowed me to combine my interests and research:
I went around to a lot of bars and talked to many
bartenders. I even took notes, for what it's worth...
but eventually I'd get drunk, and then looking at
my notes the next day was like trying to solve a
riddle with the words and letters not matching up...
at least that's how it felt. The more you drink,
the more you want to continue drinking.
It's not much, but enjoy the following story.
I increased their love quotient!!
I hope we see each other again.

雫 花びら 林檎の香り
その後
APPLE-SCENTED RAIN OF BLOSSOMS - AFTERWARD -
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
NN...
YOUR ALARM IS GOING OFF
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
AM 6 0
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET UP?
NGH...
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOUR ALARM HAS GONE OFF. ARE YOU SURE?
Ha...
rub
NAKAGAWA-SAN YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DELIVERY SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY TODAY, DON'T YOU?
NO.. .....
...FIVE MORE MINUTES
Haha.
YOU HAVE A SURPRISINGLY HARD TIME GETTING UP.
WAKE UP, SHUU-SAKU.
.....
SHUU-KUN. ♡
...STOP IT.

grab
YOUR GOOD MORNING KISS. ♡
I DON'T WANT ONE
WHA—
grab
facesit
pucker
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
MM... ♡
Back.
WHAT ABOUT BREAK-FAST?
I'M BOR-ROWING YOUR SHOWER
WELL, I'M HERE, AREN'T I?
IT'D BE MEAN TO LEAVE AS SOON AS WE WERE DONE...
I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GONE HOME LAST NIGHT. YOUR HOUSE IS TOO FAR AWAY.
AH, SHIT. I'M EXHAUST-ED...
Mlem!
MM...
A HAPPY MORNING
I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR IT.
Yawn

WELL, I'M GOING
HOW ABOUT AT LEAST HAVING SOME COFFEE? IT'S READY.
Oh. THANKS.
Mm. yummy.
rustle
AND THIS
I MADE YOU A SANDWICH, SO YOU CAN AT LEAST EAT IN THE CAR
Take some coffee with you too.
rustle

Surprisingly, I'm actually a pretty good cook.
WHAT? DID I TOUCH YOUR HEART?
THEN GIVE ME A HUG AND KISS FOR A THANK YOU.♡
.....
YOU MADE THIS?
IT'D BE MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT I ASSEMBLED IT
I got some good ham It's yummy.
...HMM THANKS.
zoom
THANKS FOR THIS.
TIME TO GO
OH, HEY. WHAT ABOUT TONIGHT? ARE YOU COMING BACK?
MISER!
Today is Saturday, so I'm off tomorrow, too
OH...
OH...
YOU'RE FORGETTING SOMETHING!
SEE YOU
HUH?
What is this conversation, anyway..
IF YOU'RE COMING, I'LL MAKE DINNER.
NO, I'M NOT SURE, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
OH...
I DON'T KNOW. DEPENDS ON HOW FAR I GET.

The man who never loses hope.
MY GOOD-BYE KISS?
.....
WHAT IS WITH YOU THIS MORNING...?
WHAT...? YOU'RE SAYING NO AGAIN?
JUST DO IT!
I WON'T!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE... THEN WHEN WILL YOU KISS ME!?
I DON'T KNOW! I DON'T LIKE THAT KIND OF THING
YOU'RE MEAN.
IF YOU SAY NO TO EVERYTHING, YOU'LL NEVER FORM A RELATIONSHIP!
HUH!?
It's a good argument.
IF WE'RE GOING TO DATE, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COMPROMISE SOMETIMES!
I gave up on good morning and thank you!

FINE.
Yay!
.....
Wow.
slide
grab
This is pretty passionate
Mm, what a way to start the day. ♡
I'll have to make him do it everytime.
MM

NGH...
or rather,
it's too much!
MM...
HAH...
WAIT...
It's a bit lengthy
KISS
...Hm?
...
...Ah...
Not there.
NN...
HAH...
If you touch me there like that...
I get weak...
NGH...

lick
shake
AH..
AH..
NGH..
AH... SHUU..
Hah...
Hah...

I KNOW, BUT ..
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D DO THIS...

slump
Y... YOU'RE HORRIBLE.
DOING THIS IN THE MORNING ....
RIGHT BEFORE YOU LEAVE...
THIS IS WHY I SAID NO IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DON'T YOU KNOW I HATE DOING ANYTHING HALFWAY?
drop

...SHUU
DO YOU HAVE TIME?
OF COURSE I DON'T. I'M ALREADY 10 MINUTES LATE.
touch
YEAH BUT JUST A LITTLE...
DAMN IT.
DON'T COMPLAIN IF I GET A LITTLE ROUGH.
Hehe.
YOU SAY THAT,
BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GENTLE I'M NOT GOING TO BREAK, BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS TENDER.
.....
sigh

...HARUNA'S GOING TO BE MAD AT YOU, TOO, YOU KNOW?
YEAH.
SHE'S SCARY.
HAHA, BUT HARUNA-CHAN IS—
AH... MM..♡ JUST...
tweet
tweet
You may have the day off, but we're different! Don't you get it?
I understand that you're oblivious, but this is too much!
And Onii-chan, you... Hey Onii-chan, are you listening!?
.....
Anyway, haven't you been spending a lot of nights away from home lately? You're an adult, so it's fine, but there is such a thing as moderation...!
And Mu-chan, what's this about running into each other and asking him to breakfast!?
SHE'S SURE-OUSLY SCARY.
I closed the shop so I could go!! Osii-chan wasn't here today either!
Who do you think did those deliveries!?
SCOWL
SCOWL
I... I'm sorry...
She really did get mad...
花しぶき 林檎の香り_ その3 ／END

◆初出一覧◆

雫 花びら 林檎の香り	／MAGAZINE BE×BOY('08年10～12月、'09年3月号)掲載
雫 花びら 林檎の香り 番外編	／MAGAZINE BE×BOY('09年5～6月号)掲載
雫 花びら 林檎の香り その後	／描き下ろし
あとがき	／描き下ろし

ビーボーイコミックスをお買い
上げ頂きありがとうございます。
この本を読んでのご意見、ご感
想をお待ちしております。

〒162-0825
東京都新宿区神楽坂 6-46
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